



As we move into the Christmas season, we begin a brand-new sermon series for the month of December. During this month we will look at different people who would have been present in the early days of Jesus' life on earth. We begin this series by looking at Mary, the mother of Jesus. Mary was a teenager when the angel Gabriel visited her. He gave her a four-fold angelic message that would serve a prophetic word about Jesus and His time on earth. At the conclusion of this meeting Mary offers a great line that she is surrendered to the plans of God. Oh, that we would follow in her example and surrender our life to God this Christmas.

1. As we move into this Christmas season we can look around and see the clash of the sacred and secular. Christmas is the only Christian holiday that is also a major secular holiday. How can we help redeem Christmas for Christ?
2. **Read Luke 1:26-27.** Luke introduces us to Mary, the mother of Jesus. He makes it clear that she is a virgin and a descendant of David. **Read Isaiah 7:14, 2 Samuel 7:12-16 and Jeremiah 23:5-6.** Talk about the prophecies about Jesus.
3. Each of our lives have a backstory and a lineage of people in our family line. **Read Matthew 1:1-17.** When you read the backstory of Jesus, share what you learn about some of these people. Who sticks out as faithful, broken, committed, or scandalous?
4. **Read Luke 1:28-30.** Immediately the angel Gabriel tells Mary not to be afraid. **Read Joshua 1:9, Isaiah 41:10, Psalm 56:3, and Philippians 4:6-7.** What are you afraid of right now and where do you need help overcoming that fear?
5. **Read Luke 1:21-33.** The angel gives a four-fold prophetic message about Jesus. When you read these verses, what part about the prophecy are you most looking for in Jesus? Share why you are focusing on that this Christmas season.
6. After Mary hears this message, she responds with a question and statement (**read Luke 1:34-38**). Mary chose to live a life surrendered to God's greater plan. What cost would it be to Mary for such surrender?
7. For Mary to have such a great surrender, it meant she would need to trust God with her entire life. Thinking about surrender: where, how, or what do you want to surrender to God this Christmas season? What is holding you back from such surrender?
8. Close your time in prayer. Pray for strength to invite a friend to meet Jesus.