

A Christmas To-Do List

Believe – Luke 1:26-38

Discussion Points

November 29, 2020

Read/Reflect

1. Read Luke 1:26-38. Carefully consider what the angel's announcement would have sounded like to Mary (probably a girl of about 15 years old).
2. Review the announcement to Zechariah and his response (from Luke 1:5-25).

Explore

3. If Mary is to be considered a model of the "new believer" what characteristics stand out (e.g. as opposed to Zechariah, who represents all of Israel's past)?
4. In what ways do you identify with Zechariah's faith? In what ways do you identify with Mary's faith?
5. What challenges do you have with believing? If you were to pray, "Lord I believe, help my unbelief" to what kinds of things would you be referring?
6. When have you been fearful, yet believing? What did it teach you or how did God meet you?
7. In what ways will celebrating this Christmas (in 2020) be different for you? How might it help or challenge you to think differently about the Christmas story and your belief?

Pray

*God, today we choose to listen to your voice, to be still and know that you are God with us.
Hark! The herald angels sing, Glory to the newborn King.*

*God we hear about the "incarnate Deity", that you were pleased to dwell with us in flesh and blood.
May we know you as Emmanuel, God with us, and may we share your presence with those around us.
Hark! The herald angels sing, Glory to the newborn King.*

*God we hear your promise of "peace on earth", but the nations have not embraced your peace.
We pray for places in the world where there is deep unrest, war, anger, and broken lives. . .
Hark! The herald angels sing, Glory to the newborn King.*

