



Sermon
Discussion
Guide

Sunday, December 18, 2022

PROMISES, PROMISES

Anticipation for the Promise of Love

Read/Reflect

1. Read Luke 1:5-25 and 1:26-38. As you compare the two stories, what parallels do you find — what are the similarities and differences?
2. Why do you think Zechariah's question was taken as unbelief (1:20) when Mary's question was not? What assurance and sign are given to Mary?

How would you describe the progression of Mary's response to the angel Gabriel in 1:26-38?

Explore

1. As the Christmas day approaches, do you find your heart filling with anticipation? If not, why not? What fills your heart as the Christmas day approaches?
2. How does Jesus' promise to be "with us always, to the very end of the age" (Mt.28:20) lead you to anticipate the challenges and obstacles you might be facing in the coming week leading up to Christmas day?
3. How have you seen faith and anticipation connected in your own life? Share a story from your own life that demonstrates the connection between faith and anticipation.
4. How do you prepare yourself spiritually for Christmas? What are the things you do as an individual or together with family to prepare for celebrating the birth of Jesus, who is the fulfillment of God's promise of love?

Pray

- Ask the Holy Spirit to prepare your heart and to be centred on Jesus this last week of Advent.
- If you are willing, take some time to share what challenges and obstacles you might be facing in your life. As a group, pray for one another and encourage one another by assuring God's presence with us in Jesus who is called Immanuel ("God With Us").