



Love
December 20, 2020
Luke 1:26-38

Connect:

- Christmas is almost here! In the most challenging year we have collectively experienced as a planet, we could use a little cheer. What is your favorite and most joyous Christmas tradition? How did it get started?

Engage

- Read **Luke 1:26-38**. You've likely had some vivid dreams over time. Ever have any dream quite as real as Mary's? How do dreams make you feel? How do you imagine Mary processed this dream?
- December 21, 2020 is the Winter Solstice... the longest night of the year. At 4:02 AM (CST) we will be farther from the sun than at any other point in the year. What a metaphor for a challenging year. While we'll be far from the sun, some may be feeling farther from the Son of God than ever before. What has been the most challenging part of your relationship with Jesus this year?
- Mary's strength as a young teenager about to go through the most challenging and rewarding reality of her life is quite remarkable. What do you admire most about Mary? Where do you best see that quality alive and at work in our world today?
- Compare the phrase "*It is what it is*" with "*Let it be according to your word.*" Does one seem like passive resignation and the other a confident word of partnership? Discuss the differences.
- *Grace* is the "G" word of faith that we most generally appreciate. Thank God for grace! Mary, however, seems to exhibit some *Grit* in this passage as she imagines the role she will orchestrate in this coming of the Christ child. The definition of grit is "*indomitable spirit.*" Do you have a gritty faith? What does that mean to you?

Next Steps:

- Christmas is coming soon. Are you ready? Not ready in the sense of having every gift purchased, every tag and bow secured but rather your heart. How is your heart prepared for Christmas this year? Take time every day this week to *prepare him room* in your heart. Receive the grace, and the grit, that God offers us in Christmas.

Pray:

- "*Love came down at Christmas and we are so grateful, Lord Quell our fears and heighten our sense of partnering with you to live the promise you came to share with us. May it be so. Amen.*"