

4. How does Mary's response in verse 38 reveal the posture every faithful Christian should have?

5. Read Luke 1:46-50. What aspects of God's character do you most celebrate?

6. Read Luke 1:51-55. Take a look at Mary's song in comparison with Miriam's song in Exodus 15 and Hannah's song in 1 Samuel 2. What are some common themes?

7. How does your life challenge the values of the world with the values of the kingdom?

SERIES: The Rescue Begins

SERMON 4: "Faith Lessons from a Devout 15-year-old Girl"

TEXT: Luke 1:26-38

DATE: April 7/8, 2018

The Gospel Message

The whole Bible has been the story of Jesus and the whole story of Jesus is the gospel.

- God works through unexpected _____ in unexpected _____ in his gospel story.
- Jesus is more than a holy man. He's the _____ king who will reign forever.

Jesus is not just the one we venerate as Son of God; he is the one we _____ as king.

"Crowns to give I have none, but what thou hast given I return, content to feel that everything is mine when it is thine, and the more fully mine when I have yielded it to thee." (Valley of Vision)

- In and through Jesus, God makes himself _____ in order to establish a relationship with you and me.

God becomes a _____.

"On the cross he offered a king's ransom: his life for the life of his people. He would die for all the wrong things that we had ever done and would do, completely atoning for all our sins. The crown of thorns that was meant to make a mockery of his royal claims actually proclaimed his kingly dignity, even in death." (Philip Ryken)

Responding to the Gospel

From Mary, this 15-year-old girl, we learn that...

- Faith without _____ is dead.

Wondered =

Mary, as a first-century Jew, had been trained to know God doesn't _____.

If your faith never doubts (a) you're probably vulnerable to believing _____, and (b) your mind is likely unengaged from your faith. You're not loving him with all your mind.

"There's a kind of doubt that is a sign of a closed mind, and there's a kind of doubt that's a sign of an open mind. There's a kind of doubt that actually wants answers, and there's a kind of doubt that doesn't want answers." (Tim Keller)

- Faith without _____ is dead.

We have so much more than Mary had when it comes to knowing God's track record of _____.

Mary became was a servant of God as a girl, but _____ became our servant as _____.

Family Discussion Questions:

1. Why was Mary afraid?
2. What can we learn about facing our fears from Mary's example?
3. What was so special about Mary's baby according to the angel?

CHRIST CONNECTION

In submitting to God's plan for her life, even though it would bring suffering and heartache, Mary chose to magnify God. As a result, her faithfulness is an example to us. Likewise, Jesus magnified his Father through his obedient life, and he submitted to God's plan, even to death on a cross, so that we could be saved.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Please complete this study on your own, then bring it to your small group for discussion.

1. Looking back over your notes from this week's sermon, what particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

2. What has been your general impression of Mary going into this weekend's sermon?

3. Read Luke 1:26-38. What do we learn from the way Mary responded to the angel's message?

THEOLOGICAL THEME

Jesus was conceived by the Spirit's power and was born of a virgin.