

Doing Life Together

1. What can we 'do' to develop the kind of 'faith response' that Mary and Ananias displayed in these stories?

Leaders: Responding properly to the 'big ask' is possible only because we've learned to respond in faith with the little things he asks us every day. It is about developing a Servant Heart towards God – that all we have and are belong to him (we're at his disposal).

2. How can 'living in community' with others (faith friendships and relationships) help prepare us to respond with simple faith when God gives us a task (or invites us to join him in what he's doing)?

Prayer Requests



Larry & Diane Willems - EFCCM - Thailand
Jenny & Christina

Pray for:

- More workers for church planting & teaching English.
- Diane as she teaches at Waree International School.
- Young people in the church in Mae Wang - that they will be a witness in their school & make a difference in their community.
- Outreach to University students in Chiang Mai.
- Jenny & Christina in their studies.

Service Opportunities

Volunteers Needed !!

We are short on a number of volunteers needed to help our church ministries to function comfortably. Please prayerfully consider taking on one of the following roles:

- Boys Brigade Helpers!!!
- Nursery Workers
- Youth Leaders
- The Nook
- Foyer Hosts
- Chair Team
- Ushers



Dec 11, 2011

Sermon Notes

King Jesus

Luke 1:26-38

What child is this indeed?

I. The narrative: the Christmas story

Luke 1:26-30, 34-38

- An Angelic messenger
- An Ordinary place
- A Surprised young woman

II. The revelation of identity

Luke 1:31-33

Five Descriptions of Mary's child

1. His name will be called Jesus

Luke 1:31

"Yeshua" - Yahweh saves

Matthew 1:21

Jesus Christ is a Saving King

2. He will be Great

Luke 1:32

"Megas"

Isaiah 9:6-7

Jesus is a Saving King and He is an Eminently

Powerful King

3. He will be called Son of the Most High

Luke 1:32, 35

"El Elyon"

Hebrews 1:1-3

Jesus Christ is a Saving King, a great King and a Divine King. Is He your King?

4. He will Rule on King David's Throne

Luke 1:32

2 Sam 7:12-16

Jesus is a Saving King, a greatly splendid King, a Divine King and a Prophetic King

5. He will Reign as holy Forever

Luke 1:32-33, 35

John 18:33-38

Jesus Christ is a Savior King, He is a splendidly great King, He is a Divine King, He is a prophetic ruling King and He is an Everlasting King. Is He your King? Acts 4:12

Questions on today's sermon?
Email them to sermon@okotoksefc.ca

Home Bible Fellowship Homework

For the week of December 11—December 18, 2011

Quick Review – Is there anything from the sermon you would like to talk further about or have questions about?

Thinking Things Through

1. Did you have any questions about Sunday's sermon and the titles (or descriptions) of Jesus from Luke 1? If so, what were they?
2. If you were Mary and heard your child being described by the angel as Jesus was, what would you be thinking?
3. It didn't seem hard for Mary to say, "I'll do whatever God wants." If you think it was 'easy' for her to respond as she did, why do you think that was so for her? If you think there may be more to the story than Luke records, what do you think led her to the place where she could trust so completely?
Leaders: If it was 'easy', it was because she had a profound faith in God – Abraham like. She had already oriented her life to follow where he lead. If she had any reservations or struggles, she was able to set them aside because of her simple trust in God. The answer in both cases is her simple faith.

Digging Deeper

Read Mary's interaction with the angel again (Luke 1:26-38) and then read Zacharias's (Luke 1:5-25)

1. What are the similarities and the differences between these stories in their interaction with the angels?
Leaders: Here are a few of the similarities: 1. Fear at the angel's appearance. Angel tells them not to be afraid. (That's how you know 'fear' in v.12 is similar emotion to 'greatly troubled' in v.29); 2. The angel announces a birth in both situations; 3. The angel gives some pretty specific details about who this child will be in both situations. 4. Both Mary and Zachariah have questions once the announcement has been made.
Leaders: Here are a few of the differences: 1. Mary was at best hoping she might be the mother of the Christ once she is married. She had no expectation or desire to have a child prior to marriage. Zachariah had been praying for a child for many years; 2. The questions are different. Mary's is about 'how'. Zachariah's is about 'proof'. 3. Angel answers Mary but punishes Zachariah (his 'proof').

2. What do the questions Mary and Zachariah ask tell us about them (the question immediately after the child's birth is announced)? This difference is a key insight into where their hearts were in relationship with God.
Leaders: Zachariah's 'faith' was faltering. He kept on praying for a child but his expectation that God would answer was wavering. Mary had not been asking for God to do anything – she might have been 'hoping' (like many young girls) that she might be the mother of Messiah. When the angel spoke, she just wanted to know 'how' it would happen even though the shame and humiliation of being an unwed mother would be her lot.

3. Do you feel like your walk with God is more like Zachariah's situation or Mary's – praying with answers that come after long delays or being surprised by what God asks? Explain your answer.
4. Would you say the faith response expected of Mary was easier or harder than that asked of Zachariah? Who had the 'tougher' situation for belief? Explain your answer.
Leaders: After people have weighed into the discussion, ask: Which faith response do you think you'd struggle with more – having to wait or being asked to do some surprisingly tough task?

Ananias also had a tough 'ask' by God – though not by an angel but in a vision. Read Acts 9:10-19.

5. When Ananias heard what God was asking, what was his response? How is it different than both Zachariah's and Mary's?
Leaders: Ananias is also afraid – he knows who Paul is. The difference is he does not ask any questions, neither looking for 'proof' or wondering 'how' it would happen.
6. How is Ananias's faith response similar to Mary's?
Leaders: He just goes. He acts immediately – 'I'll do whatever you ask of me'.
7. What do Ananias and Mary's responses reveal about what our attitude (or 'posture') ought to be in relationship to our God?
Leaders: Obedience in spite of fear. A 'posture' (attitude) of Submission and Servanthood. Our lives are not our own.