SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

Luke 1:26-38

Ice Breaker: What's an evidence of God's grace you've seen this week?
Ice Breaker: If you could decide, what would be your dream (or your ideal way) for how the Lord might use you in the near future?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. **Read Luke 1:26-38:** What stands out to you in this text? What is something that you have not seen before?

2. In what ways do we need to be careful when we study a familiar text? How do we guard our hearts from making familiar passages of God's word trivial in our heart?

3. What do we learn in verses 26-27 about Jospeh and Mary? What pieces of information set the stage as the story begins?

4. What is unique about the angels greeting to Mary? Why might have Luke made sure to include this "extra" greeting? How did Mary respond?

5. How do we respond to God's word when it's put in front of us? What might it look like for God to speak to us through his word? Give an example of when God's word changed you and/or shaped you.

6. What was the message that Mary was given? How would a first century Israelite read these verses? What would it mean for them within the context of the OT and its promises? What stories are behind these names and ideas?

7. How do you respond when you hear of the kingship of Jesus? How does Jesus rule over your life? Has it been with joy or resistance from your heart? If it is with joy today, has it been with resistance in the past?

8. How do we cultivate a joyful submission to the Lord? What can we do now to prepare our hearts to joyful submit to Jesus in future pain, hardship, uncertainly, loss, etc?

9. What does "for nothing will be impossible with God" mean? What is a wrong application of this phrase? What would be an appropriate way apply this to our own lives?

10. Mary makes a profound statement in verse 38. Do you think she understands what this will mean for her? What does is mean for us to be a servant of God? How do we humbly submit to the Lord and say, "I am your servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word."