

The Journey Study Sheet Week 1

Opening Prayer

Merciful God, give me the grace to hear the story of Christ's birth with open ears that I may gain fresh insight into your work of redemption. Prepare my heart to welcome the Savior into this world. Amen.

Opening Reflection

Take a moment and reflect on your hometown. How did your hometown shape you into person you would become? And how does your hometown still influence you today?

Biblical Foundation

Read Luke 1:26-38 before watching the video

Video Session: Mary of Nazareth

Using Amplify Media, watch the first session of the Journey Study. The videos were filmed at Biblical and archaeologically important sites in Israel. Our presenter is Adam Hamilton, the author of our book and pastor at Church of the Resurrection, a United Methodist Church in Kansas.

Video and Book Reflection *(you may choose to write your thoughts)*

1. What did you see in the video or read in the book that surprised you or was new to you? How does this new information shape your understanding of the Christmas Story?

2. How do you think Mary and the other residents of Nazareth might have been affected by living so close to a wealthy Roman city?

3. Mary was an unlikely choice to play such a pivotal role in God's redemptive plan because of her insignificant status. Can you think of any other people from the Bible who were used by God despite their status?

Video 2 (posted at www.crawfordvilleumc.org/the-journey/)

This video was filmed in the Sanctuary during the Wednesday Night Advent Study. In this segment, Pastor Paul will provide additional teaching about Mary and Angels. Below is an outline and scriptures that will aid your study.

Mary and Zechariah

Luke 1:18-20

¹⁸ And Zacharias said to the angel, “How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is well advanced in years.”

¹⁹ And the angel answered and said to him, “I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God, and was sent to speak to you and bring you these glad tidings. ²⁰ But behold, you will be mute and not able to speak until the day these things take place, because you did not believe my words which will be fulfilled in their own time.”

Angels

1. Gabriel: Daniel 8:16, Daniel 9:21, Luke 1:19, and Luke 1:26

2. Michael: Daniel 10:13, Daniel 10:21, Daniel 12:21, Jude 9, Rev. 12:7

3. Fallen Angels

Jude 6

“And the angels who did not keep their positions of authority but abandoned their proper dwelling—these he has kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for judgment on the great Day.”

2 Peter 2:4

“For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them in chains of darkness to be held for judgment;”

4. Satan or Lucifer (Latin word meaning Day Star or Morning Star)

Isaiah 14:7

“How you have fallen from heaven, morning star, son of the dawn!
You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations!