

**Bible Study Questions**  
**December 13, 2020**  
**Sean Miller**  
*Mary: The Young Girl Who Pondered Christmas*

**Ice Breakers:**

What was your favorite Christmas special as a kid? Are there lessons you now see in the special that you missed when you are young? What's your favorite special now?

Have you ever felt like a "misfit?" When? Why?

**Questions:**

Read Luke 1:2-38.

How does the Christmas story remind you that misfits are chosen for extraordinary callings? What other Biblical evidence do we have for this pattern? Who is your favorite "misfit" in the Bible? Why?

If you put yourself into Mary's context (in the ancient world), how does her response to the angel surprise or affect you? Do your best to imagine what that news would do to your world (when you were a teen). How would that impact you?

In the talk, Sean said, "Mary is chosen and blessed to have a baby out of wedlock who will grow up and be executed like a criminal. And, of course along with the original readers of the story, we know that Mary will end up at the foot of the cross watching her son die." What does this part of the Biblical story show you? Say to you? Give you strength and/or courage?

Sean talks about Matthew and Luke including genealogies in their Gospels. How does backing up and remembering the larger and longer story of God's faithfulness help us in times like these? Is it helping you? Why or why not?

When you ponder the power of Mary's meekness, what do you see? How could Biblical meekness help to transform our world?

This series does not include an in-depth look at the story of Zachariah. However, there does seem to be a juxtaposition, between Zachariah and Mary, that Luke uses in his Gospel. What do you think Luke was trying to communicate to the early followers of Jesus?

**For more thought:**

As we think deeply about Christmas this year, we can't miss thinking deeply about how it is affecting us. What are we feeling or not feeling and why? Which characters do we relate to and why? Does the story matter like it used to and why? How does pondering Christmas affect our relationship with God? Take time and respond to these questions.

The ultimate scandal of the story is that God would enter human life with all of its pain, violence and corruption. The announcement for Mary is also for us, and it is ultimately an

announcement of hope for humankind. God has not abandoned us to the consequences of our own sinfulness. Rather, Jesus comes as our rescuer. Ultimately this is a story of how we respond to the love of God in Jesus. Would you respond today? This week? This Christmas?