

A Promise to Behold (Judges 13:1-25)

Judges: Shattered Saviors and Fractured Faith

Discussion Questions

- **What does it mean to be filled with God-shaped wonder?**
 - Describe a time when you were especially aware of God's transcendence (exceeding beyond the limits of ordinary experience).
 - Describe a time when you were uniquely aware of God's immanence (his indwelling presence).
 - What do you think contributes to the lack of this God-shaped wonder in our lives?
 - Describe a moment of your deepest despair.
 - How did that experience affect your hope?
 - How did it lead to cynicism in your life?
- **Read Judges 13:1-2**
 - What was Israel's moment of deepest despair?
 - What do you think it would have been like to be in Manoah and his wife's shoes at that time?
- **Read Judges 10:6-7**
 - Looking back at this passage, what context does it give us as to why the Israelites are in despair?
- **Read Judges 13:3-25**
 - What stands out to you about this passage?
 - What are some key phrases that sound familiar from other Bible passages or stories? (Hint: think of other messages delivered by angels to women.)
 - What are some phrases or words that are repeated in this text?
 - What do you think the author is communicating by utilizing those repeated phrases?
 - How does the Angel of the LORD's message restore God-shaped wonder to Manoah and his wife?
 - How did Manoah and his wife behold Jesus through this Angelic appearance and promise?
- **How can beholding Jesus transform us?**
 - Read: 2 Corinthians 3:7-18
 - How does this passage give us greater insight into what it means to "behold" Jesus?
 - What things do you often behold?
 - How does what we behold determine who we become?
- **Which of the 8 practices (Prayer, Scripture, Vocation, Evangelism, Simplicity, Sabbath, Generosity, Community) provide opportunities to behold Jesus?**
 - In what ways do you intend to step into these practices in the week ahead in order to behold Jesus?

- How can someone in your group be praying for you and encouraging you to continue in those practices?