



# *Christmas for Columbia County*

## INTRODUCTION

Mary & Joseph found themselves in a less than ideal situation when it came to Jesus' birth. The normal response would have been to give up or be driven off course. Instead, their response paves a roadmap for our own lives and circumstances.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When you dream about the Christmas season, what is the ideal you envision? Has your vision ever been realized?
2. Share about some circumstances life seems to “fall short” of the ideal.
3. Read Luke 1:26-38.
  - How would you react to having the angel Gabriel show up in your home?
  - How would you react to the news that Gabriel delivered? (unplanned pregnancy, unmarried, early teenager, etc.)
    - How did Mary react?
4. Now think back on the circumstances from #2. Do you think you could respond to your own situations as Mary did to hers in verse 38? Why or why not?

## MOVING FORWARD

Joseph could have rejected Mary. Mary could have bemoaned the call on her life. Both of them could have lived like victims. Instead, their response was to look up; recognizing that not only was God with them, but that He was for them. We don't get to choose our circumstances, only our responses. Life is often not ideal, but our Heavenly Father is ideal, engaged, and present!