

Seeking Peace in God's Plan | *Luke 1:26-38, Matthew 1:18-25*

Big Idea: *Peace isn't the absence of problems but the presence of Jesus. Even in disruption, God's plan brings peace when we trust His promises.*

INTRO & ICEBREAKERS

- Finish the sentence: "Peace, to me, would feel like..."
- When have you faced an "unplanned disruption" that completely changed your week... or your life?
- Are you more likely to panic, problem-solve, shut down, or fake calm when life suddenly shifts?

SCRIPTURE & SERMON

- **Peace & Disruption** | Mary and Joseph were faithful, ordinary people whose lives were disrupted by God's plan, not by failure.
 - Where do you see Mary or Joseph wrestling with fear or uncertainty?
 - i. Why do we often tie peace to predictability?
 - In your own life, where has God disrupted something you assumed was "normal" or "safe?"
- **Peace as God's Presence** | Peace doesn't come from avoiding trouble, but from trusting God's promises within it.
 - What helps you remember God is present when you don't understand what's happening?
 - Mary asks, "How will this be?" yet still says, "Let it be to me according to your word." Where do you see that kind of trust modeled around you?
 - What gets in the way of trusting God's presence moment-to-moment?
- **Peace & Costly Obedience** | Joseph obeyed with only one instruction and no explicitly recorded long-term plan.
 - Why is obedience often the last thing we want to think about when anxious?
 - Where are you delaying obedience because you're waiting for more understanding or control?
 - What's the difference between peace as a feeling and peace as faithfulness?

GIVING IT HANDLES

- **Identify the Disruption:** Where might God be interrupting your plans right now, not to punish you, rather to guide you?
- **Trade Self-Sufficiency for Presence:** What's one practical way this week you can "pray first, not last"?
- **Take the Next Step of Obedience:** What has God already told you to do that you need to stop delaying?
 - How will taking that step open up room for real peace?

PRAY TOGETHER

- A fresh sense of *peace* during Advent
- A trust in God's presence more than the worry of circumstances
- For a courage to take faithful steps