



COMMUNITY Groups

December 24th, 2017: CHRISTMAS EVE

OPENING

- What are some highlights from your Christmas?
- What is the strangest gift that you have ever received?

DISCUSS & APPLY

[Read Luke 1:26-33](#)

- When the angel appeared to Mary, she responded with fear. Why do you think she was troubled by this greeting? Why do you think we can be suspicious of God's love towards us?
- For an unmarried teenage girl, would you think that finding out you are going to mysteriously get pregnant would come across as good news to you? Describe a gift you received that initially seemed underwhelming (or downright unwanted) that ended up being very valuable to you.
- Is there something that God is trying to give you in this season of your life that you are rejecting because it doesn't seem like what you want?
- What was so special about the baby that Mary was going to have? Why would he be worth the social and personal challenges she would face as an unmarried teenage girl?
- If you were to examine your heart in this season, what is the one thing you want most? How does it make you feel knowing that the thing God wants to give you is Jesus?

[Read Luke 1:34-38](#)

- Do you believe that God can do something miraculous in your life like he did in the lives of Mary and Elizabeth? What do you think God is trying to do in your life right now?
- Eric said that whatever has your attention has your affection. What has your attention this season? What can we learn from Mary in this passage about having both our attention and our affection set on God?
- How can knowing that God is merciful and plans to right wrongs encourage you when you mess up? How can it encourage you when something tragic happens to you?