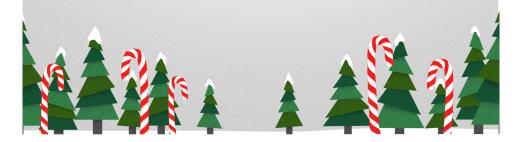
## HINDSIGHT IS 20/20



Screen Time (Dec. 6 to 27)

As we approach another Christmas season, we are taking a look back at Jesus' first arrival to earth. Our sermon series Hindsight Is 20/20 will take us to Luke 1 and 2 (we will continue through Luke in 2021). Jesus' arrival helps settle our fear because it is "good news of great joy for all people."

## **Group Discussion**

Main Text: Luke 1:5-39

**Getting started:** As you look back at the last year in hindsight, what things were most difficult for you? How did you respond to those things?

Read Luke 1:5-20

- 1. Put yourself in Zechariah's shoes. How would you have felt and responded to this news? Has there ever been a time where God disrupted your life and your plans? What fears did that cause you to have?
- 2. Hope is the expectation of future blessings and the confidence that the best is yet to come. Hopelessness is the expectation of future disappointments and the expectation that what can go wrong probably will. Do you more often live with hope or with hopelessness?
- 3. Scripture is filled with promises God has made to us. Like Romans 8:28, "God causes everything to work for the good of those who love him." Do you ever struggle to believe these promises are true for you?

Read Luke 1:26-39

4. How are these two stories about Zechariah and Mary similar? How are they different?

5. In the sermon we talked about two different kinds of doubt. Doubt that comes from a closed mind and doubt that comes from an open mind. What's the difference in these? When have you had open-minded doubts? Have you ever had closed-minded doubts? How can having open-minded doubts help you grow in your faith?

## **Next Steps**

Mary was able to completely surrender her life to God even before she knew all that Jesus would do for her. We know what Jesus has done for us through the Bible, so how much more should we be willing to surrender our lives.

- 1. Have you surrendered your life to Jesus?
- 2. Are there parts of your life that are harder for you to let go of control?

