



# Advent

Title: Unwrapping Unexpected Peace

Main Scriptures: Luke 1:26-38

Mary was familiar with God's voice.  
(Lk 1:28, 19:26; Mat 5:6, 8; Mk 4:24-25)

Mary had an attitude of expectancy.  
(Lk 1:37)

Mary was willing to be interrupted.  
(Lk 1:38, 46-54, 2:35; Deut 22:22)

# “Unwrapping Unexpected Peace” | December 2 & 3, 2023

Small Group Sermon Study | Luke 1:26-38

**Opening Prayer:** *Father, we thank You for all You have done for us. We pray in Jesus' name that You would work in our hearts and minds today. Holy Spirit, we invite You into this place today as we read and discuss. We pray You would protect our hearts and our minds as we enter into this conversation today.*

**Icebreaker:** What is something in your life, that you do/have/experience, that brings moments of peace to your life?

**Read the key passages of Scripture and review the sermon notes, then answer the following questions:**

1. Pastor Al shared a story of a family Christmas trip turned into chaos due to miscommunication. Have you ever experienced a situation where a lack of communication or misunderstandings led to conflict within your family or relationships? How did you handle it, and what did you learn from the experience?
2. Pastor Al mentioned that God often waits for us and is ready, but we might not be. In your spiritual journey, have there been times when you felt God was waiting for you to be ready for a certain task or calling? How do you discern God's timing in your life?
3. The contrast between Mary's response to the angel and Zachariah's reaction is highlighted. Do you approach your relationship with God expecting a two-way conversation, or have you found yourself going through the motions without expecting to hear from Him? How can you cultivate a more interactive relationship with God?
4. The angel tells Mary, “You are highly favoured.” What do you think made Mary highly favoured in the eyes of God?
  - a. How does this concept of divine favour relate to the beatitudes mentioned in Matthew 5:6 and 5:8?
  - b. How can we cultivate a heart that hungers for righteousness and purity?
5. Mary's expectancy is highlighted as a key aspect of her relationship with God. How is your level of expectancy in your relationship with God?
  - a. Are there wounds or challenges that have affected your expectancy?
  - b. How can you address these issues and restore a sense of trust and openness in your relationship with God?
6. Mary's willingness to be interrupted by God's plan is discussed, even when it means facing challenges and uncertainties. How do you typically respond to unexpected interruptions or changes in your life, especially when they seem to challenge your comfort and plans? What steps can you take to be more open to God's interruptions in your life?

**Silently re-read the key Scripture(s) from the message, asking the Holy Spirit to speak to you.**

1. What emotions does this passage or key theme bring up in your heart? How will you manage those emotions as you carry on through your week?
2. What do you need to surrender to Jesus? How will you respond to what Jesus is showing you?
3. What word, phrase, verse or challenge do you need to take with you this week? How will you act on what you've heard?

**Prayer:** *Spend some time praying for one another. Pray that you would each know and take a part of unwrapping unexpected peace in your daily lives, even when you are struggling or are frustrated with the things of this earth. Pray that God would speak to you in those moments.*