# DIVING DEEPER DISCUSSION GUIDE



#### TEXT SUMMARY

This Sunday is the second sermon in our Advent series. The first four sermons come from the first chapter of Luke's gospel, from the angel Gabriel's announcement to Mary about what her son would be and do.

This week's text, <u>Luke 1:26-33</u>, speaks of Jesus' role as Savior. The key verse is Luke 1:31: "And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus."

The big idea for the sermon: The grand plan of God for our redemption through Christ reveals that we need a Savior. We are not that Savior.

The two main points of the sermon:

- 1. Salvation is from God.
- 2. Salvation is through Christ.

## INTRODUCTION (OBSERVATION):

The sermon cites several **cross-references** dealing with our need for a Savior. How do these texts speak to that need?

- 1. Rom 5:18-19
- 2. Luke 1:46-47, 49-50
- 3. Luke 2:11
- 4. Luke 2:29-32
- 5. 1Tim 2:5
- 6. 2 Cor 5:17-19.21
- 7. Acts 16:30-31
- 8. Rom 5:1
- 9. Rom 5:18-19
- 10. Isa 45:22

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### **DISCUSSION** (INTERPRETATION):

The name "Jesus" was the Greek form of the Hebrew name Joshua (so it would have been a popular name).

- 1. What does the name "Jesus" mean? (See Matthew's account, where he explains: Matt 1:21.)
- 2. If Jesus is the Savior, what exactly does he save us from? What is our dire situation, so hopeless that we should need a Savior?

#### SO WHAT? (APPLICATION):

The Jews of Jesus' day would have immediately understood their need for a savior. They misunderstood what their deepest problems were and what God's salvation would look like, but they were in no doubt that they needed a savior.

The word "savior" doesn't resonate as much with our culture. We either are high-achievers or we want to be high achievers, and we look more to self-sufficiency and have less interest in deliverance. But as we saw in the Observation section, the language of salvation runs throughout the Scripture.

- Would it be too much to say that Christianity is for losers and that Jesus has nothing to offer the selfsufficient? Is that stating it too bluntly? Or does it sound blunt just because we so highly prize our own self-sufficiency?
- 2. But even if we're ready to look outside ourselves for our salvation, we can go wrong. Scripture is clear that salvation is found only in Christ, but people often look for salvation elsewhere. Where else have you been tempted to look for salvation?