

HOPE *for the* HOLIDAYS

HOPE IN THE BROKENNESS

DECEMBER 11
MCA DISCUSSION GUIDE

Sermon Outline

Key verse

You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High.
Luke 1:31-32

Because of Christ we have hope in our brokenness

1. The Lord chooses the broken

God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷ to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

Luke 1:26-28

2. The Lord comforts the broken

Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰ But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God."

Luke 1:29-30

3. The Lord changes the broken

"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" ³⁵ The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you."

Luke 1:34-35

Opening Thought

Jesus wasn't born into a wealthy family with powerful connections; the situation was awkward at best. His earthly parents were a teenage girl and her blue-collar fiancé. And maybe your life, your family, your job, your situation seems ordinary too. Don't worry, the Christmas story teaches us that God can use it all for his glory.

Ice breakers

- Have you ever encountered a celebrity?
- What is the most unusual birth story you know of?

Dig deeper

- If you were Mary, how do you think you would have responded to the angel's news?
- How can Mary's attitude encourage us to respond to God's plans?
- Has God ever asked you to do something you never expected to do?
- In Luke 1:32 Gabriel says that Jesus will be "great." Then he describes four things that Jesus will be or have or do. What are they? What is important about these descriptors?
- Is there anything in your life that seems impossible for God to work in right now?
- Share about a time that the Lord has comforted you.
- Why is it helpful to know that Jesus was born into a messy situation?
- What can you do to alleviate the frenzied pace of the Christmas season?

Closing

Be on the lookout for the ways that God is moving – even in the ordinary, the mundane, and in broken places.

Reflect on the greatest challenges you are facing in your life right now. What can you do that would glorify God in them?

Check out the He Gets Us campaign. There are cool videos that are encouraging to believers and a great tool for sharing Christ with unbelievers. hegetsus.com