

## The Christmas Miracle DISCUSSION GUIDE

### OVERVIEW

In this message entitled, *The Christmas Miracle*, we will discuss how we can gain fresh vision and have a clear perspective of God's dream for our lives.

### DISCUSSION

Two thousand years ago, at the first Christmas, a miracle took place in the tiny village of Nazareth. A young girl was filled with the Spirit of God and received an amazing gift – a Gift for the entire world. God's life flowed through this humble young woman—bringing eternal hope and healing to a world bruised and battered. Christmas is about the miracle of God joining with people – Heaven meeting earth, and the Holy Spirit impregnating Mary. Christmas highlights the incarnation – which is the miracle of all miracles, the surprise of all surprises. The incarnation simply defined is, something from the spirit realm or something abstract becoming flesh. Jesus came from Heaven where He was in spirit form, to earth where He dwelled as a human. During Christmas, many of us love to surprise the little ones we love with good things. How much more does God love to surprise us with His good gifts? Jesus said in **Matthew 7:11: "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him?"** The heart of God is nothing but good toward us. God's grace is His richness being freely given to us.

- ❖ What's one of your most favorite gifts you've ever received?
- ❖ Reflecting on the surprise element mentioned in the text, how have you experienced unexpected blessings or "good gifts" from God in your own life?
- ❖ In what ways can we emulate God's generosity and goodness in our interactions with others during the Christmas season?

The Father sent His only Son, made in flesh, born as a babe, to be the Savior of the world – through His humble servant Mary. Mary's miracle shows us the promise—indeed, the pathway—for God to do the miraculous for those who are open and hungry for a miracle. God loves to work through people. Jesus existed before He came to Earth as a baby, but God chose to work through a person and partnered with Mary to bring Him into the earth. In Mary's account and life, we see the pattern for a miracle – 1. God speaks to us, 2. He does something in us, 3. that then comes through us, 4. to bless those around us.

- ❖ Share a personal experience where you felt God speaking to you, doing something in you, and then working through you to bless others.
- ❖ How can the Christmas story, particularly Mary's role, serve as an inspiration for us to trust God's plan and be willing vessels for His work in the world?

### The Making Of A Miracle:

1. The most important miracle in history is the miracle of the incarnation.  
The Mary Miracle shows God's passion and pattern for our redemption. Redemption is the beautiful word

that shows God's miracles of taking the broken, the unseen, the forgotten, the uninvited – and using them in His plan and purposes. The theme of Christmas is the willingness of Jesus to accept temporary housing in a womb, in order to bring eternal promise into the world. There is no miracle of redemption without the miracle in Mary. The Mary Miracle was only intended to be the model, the first of incarnational miracles, not the only one. God places vision, hopes, and dreams inside each of us. All miracles from God begin with His Word—and He still speaks to us today.

- ❖ Discuss the significance of the Mary Miracle as a model for incarnational miracles. How can we be open to being vessels for God's miracles?
- ❖ Considering that God places vision, hopes, and dreams inside each person, how can we actively listen for God's Word and respond to His guidance in our lives?

2. God loves to work in ordinary, imperfect people to do extraordinary things.

Read **Luke 1:34-37**. God works in and through people to do the impossible. But many times, we let insecurities, situations, and failures frame our lives, destroy our dreams, and suffocate our hopes. God's unlimited power invites us to live beyond these restrictions. Our relationship with the living God is essential to transcending our limits, difficulties, and barriers.

Exceeding these limitations is more than a matter of mental attitude, of visualizing good things. The Holy Spirit is with us, willing and ready to bring us through and beyond those controlling and limiting circumstances. **Luke 1:48: *For He has regarded the lowly state of His maidservant...*** God didn't choose Mary because of perfection—He chose her because of her humility and willingness to accept His invitation.

- ❖ How can we overcome insecurities and failures to embrace the unlimited power of God in our lives?

3. God works through willing people.

We should never hesitate to say “Yes” to the miracle God has for our life. Mary was a major vessel of God's grace. She said in verse 48: ***“...For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed.”*** God often uses the young, the broken, the weak, and the unexpected to shock everyone. **1 Corinthians 1:27: *But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty;*** She had the faith to believe and humility to receive the gift of God. God was willing to come in the form of a baby, but He chose to work through a person that was willing to be used. God's miracles fall most often on humble human vessels. If we are open to being used, He is ready to change the world – through us!

- ❖ When God speaks to you, how long does it usually take for you to act?
- ❖ What is the relationship between humility and obedience?
- ❖ How can we cultivate a willingness to be used by God in our everyday lives?

## LIFE CHALLENGE

If we live willing, God will do miracles in us repeatedly. Today, God is still looking for human vessels through whom He can do miracles! God loves to work through people! Will you let Him speak to you and work through you?

## PRAY TOGETHER