

Theme: During Advent 2014, we look at the first Christmas through the eyes of its main participants – Zechariah, Mary, Joseph, and the Angels. As we consider how Christ's Incarnation affected each of these individuals, we hope it will allow us to examine our response to the story of God's amazing love shown in the coming of Christ, causing us to worship God anew with wonder, gratitude, and faith.

I. Zechariah - The Dark Night of Doubt

- A. Theme: The disappointments of life can provoke doubt in even the strongest believers, but quiet reflection on God's Word and work can restore our faith and fill us with praise.
- B. Text: Luke 1:18
- C. Response: Communion
- D. Benediction: 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17
- E. Teaching keywords: Advent and Christmas, biblical characters, faith, meditation and silence

II. Mary - A Humble, Thoughtful, Obedient Faith

- A. Theme: Mary is an example for all believers as she receives God's staggering promise with a humble, thoughtful, obedient faith.
- B. Text: Luke 1:26-38
- C. Response: Prayer
- D. Benediction: 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24
- E. Teaching keywords: Advent and Christmas, biblical characters, faith, meditation and silence, humility, obedience, deity of Christ

III. Joseph - The Obedience of True Righteousness

- A. Theme: True righteousness desires to submit to God, show mercy to others, and humbly receive correction from God so that it might fully obey.
- B. Text: Matthew 1:18-25
- C. Response: Communion
- D. Benediction: Micah 6:8
- E. Teaching keywords: Advent and Christmas, biblical characters, faith, obedience, humility, mercy and mercy ministry, correction

IV. Angels - Awe and Praise At the Incarnation

- A. Theme: Angels are mighty beings who stand in the presence of God and do His will, but they were awestruck at the mystery of the Incarnation and praised God.
- B. Text: Luke 2:8-14
- C. Response: Prayer
- D. Benediction: 2 Peter 1:2
- E. Teaching keywords: Advent and Christmas, angels, incarnation, 2nd Adam, humanity of Christ, humanity, praise

V. Shepherds - Spreading the Good News

- A. Theme: The shepherds joy was completed as they received the good news with faith, worshipped God, and spread the good news to others.
- B. Text: Luke 2:8-20
- C. Response: Silent Night
- D. Benediction: Luke 2:10-11
- E. Teaching keywords: Advent and Christmas, biblical characters, evangelism and missions, praise, worship

Through Their Eyes - Series Outline
Advent 2014