



"A Hope Derailed" - December 14, 2025

Sermon by Pastor Blaire Jenkins

Group Leader Notes

It's easy to have hope when the story feels like it's on track. But what do we do when our expectations collapse... even when we're holding onto real promises from a good God? In this message, Blaire walks through the whole arc of Mary's story — not just the Christmas moment — and shows how hope gets tested, refined, and sometimes derailed by timing, misunderstanding, pressure, and pain. From the angel's promise ("no word from God will ever fail") to the wedding at Cana, to the moment Mary tries to "take charge" of Jesus, and finally to standing near the cross, we see a pattern: When hope gets shaky, go to Jesus... and keep going to Jesus.

Main Scripture Reading: Luke 1:26–38, 42–55; Luke 2:41–51; John 2:1–11; Mark 3:21, 31–35

Group Discussion

Begin in prayer before reading and discussing the text.

1. **Hope Expectations vs. Hope:** The sermon says that *expectations shape experiences* and can even shift the root of our hope. Where have you noticed your hope becoming tied to what you expect God to do rather than to who God is?
2. **Mary's Journey:** Looking at Mary's story—from the angel's promise to the cross—what moment do you find most relatable in your own faith journey, and why?
3. **Going Back to Jesus:** When Mary's hope was most derailed, she stayed near Jesus. What does "going back to Jesus" practically look like for you when your hope feels shaky or disappointed?

Let's Pray

https://youtu.be/ExaUe6t_5rY?si=m9vQR_7sxUOXuEfs

