

## ULC Sermon Study Resource

*Matriarchs — Mary*

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**Prayer:** Pause for a few moments to go to the Lord in prayer. Ask that He would draw near to you in this time, and open your heart and mind to hear His Word.

**Icebreaker:** How did you celebrate Christmas Eve this year? Christmas Day?

**Reading:** Matthew 1:18-25

### Outline:

- I. The Promise of God (v. 18-21)
  - a. The angel Gabriel visits Mary and tells her that even though she is a virgin, she will become pregnant with the Son of God by the Holy Spirit. (cf. Luke 1:26-38)
  - b. At first Mary is greatly troubled, but she embraces the promise of God by faith.  
**Q: How does the promise that the Holy Spirit and power of the Most High will overshadow Mary give her hope despite the challenges she will face?**
- II. The Presence of God (v. 22-25)
  - a. Isaiah 7:14 “Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.” (Immanuel = “God with us”)
  - b. This sign is given to King Ahaz of Judah as a sign of military deliverance from invading enemies, but this promise of God’s presence is fully fulfilled in the birth of Jesus Christ.  
**Q: How does God’s Presence show up throughout all of Scripture? At Christmas?**
- III. The Hope of God
  - a. Mary has resilient hope from pondering/treasuring Jesus in her heart (cf. Luke 2:19, 51).
  - b. Mary sees Jesus rejected by his hometown, betrayed, and crucified, yet she has hope.
  - c. The good creator God became a human being in the person of Jesus Christ in Christmas, and he took on our pain, suffering, and sin through his crucifixion and resurrection.  
**Q: How does treasuring Jesus give Mary a resilient hope?**

### Reflection/Application Questions:

- 1) How can we trust in God’s promises and have hope despite our present circumstances?
- 2) How will we respond to Christmas’s “good news of great joy that will be for all the people”?
- 3) Mary is “found to be with child” from the Holy Spirit, and the assumed offense of adultery is punishable by death. How does God use both Joseph and Mary’s obedience in Jesus’s birth?
- 4) How can we, like Mary, treasure and meditate on Jesus to strengthen our hope in Him?

### Suggestions for further study:

- Luke 1:26-38 **Q: How does Mary trust God’s promise in this passage?**
- Luke 1:39-56 **Q: How does this passage show Mary’s hope and confidence in God?**
- John 19:16-27 **Q: How does Jesus care for Mary even during his crucifixion?**

**Closing Prayer:** “Lord God, we thank you that you are the God of promise. Teach us to put our faith in your promises. God, we thank you that you are the God of presence. Help us to grab hold of your presence in our life. Lord, we thank you that you are the God of hope. Remind us that no matter what goes on around us, you are working out your deliverance and salvation for your people, and we see this all because you sent your son Jesus into this world to be our Lord and Savior. In His great name, Amen.”