



WONDER

Wonder Part 2 - 12/2/18

OVERVIEW

In the hectic times of life, and particularly in the chaos of the holiday season, it can be easy to just plow forward in survival mode. But God uniquely designed us for times of rest and thankful reflection. Remembering and recounting the mighty things He has done can serve to bring our often-frantic moments into clearer focus and allows us to take inventory of what's most important. This message will challenge you to realize that our celebrations are solely because God has been, and continues to be, extravagant in His goodness toward each of us. You will be encouraged to view your life, and this season, with a grateful heart and a mind filled with wonder.

Scriptures: Luke 1:46-49, I Thessalonians 5:16-18

APPLICATION

1. Gratitude can cultivate wonder. Just like the four stories of gratitude we heard...what are you grateful for this holiday season?
2. I Thessalonians 5:18 says, "...give thanks in all circumstances." What are some of the benefits of giving thanks in all circumstances?
3. Mary doesn't focus her attention on the worldly things or obstacles, but instead she looks up toward God and focuses her attention on gratefulness to Him. What are you focusing on when you need to be looking up toward God?
4. Jeremy shared that the people in the Christmas story who kept their eyes on God (Mary, the shepherds, the wise men) experienced wonder, despite their circumstances. What would it take for you to experience wonder this Christmas season (even if that means taking your eyes off of the "good stuff" in your life)?

HOMEWORK: Pray that God will help you lift your eyes from the circumstances—the busyness, the stress, and even the good stuff of this season, so you can live in wonder and gratitude. Read through our verses in Psalm and reflect on His goodness: Psalm 117:1-2, Psalm 139:13-14, Psalm 42:11, Psalm 23:1, Psalm 27:1, Psalm 145:18-19.