

## Corporate Worship Theme: Eternal Hope in the Midst of War

Corporate Worship begins our series on The Advent, which means “coming”. And for Christians, it is the coming of Jesus, the anointed of God who has come to war with evil to save mankind. Though the story starts long ago before the garden in the hearts of our Father in Heaven, Jesus and Holy Spirit, we will concentrate on the events around the birth of Jesus to encourage our hearts this Christmas season to greater intimacy with God, Father, Jesus and Holy Spirit through saving faith in His plan to accomplish all He promises those who believe His story. Praying for you and your loved ones to experience the wonder of saving faith this Holiday Season. What is saving faith? To know God Intimately in Jesus, To Love Him Completely, and To Rejoice in Him Fully!!!

### Themes: Advent, Disruption, War, Impossible, Hope.

- The result of Christmas is that sinners are made worshippers and rebels transformed into loyal children.
- **Good News:** God has done the impossible in the pregnancy of Mary with Jesus, baby God, and in Jesus has provided the solution to the problem of US and evil.
- **Bad News:** we hate the disruption of God’s ownership, rule, and the demands of God’s solution.
- **The Hopeful Turn:** God does the impossible all the time, the conversion of our souls
  - **by His love,** He sent His Son,
  - **to His love,** He gives Holy Spirit to live in us,
  - and **through His love,** we now love others with the love He has given us.

### Text: Luke 1:26-38 (ESV)

Title: Eternal Hope In The Midst of War: The Disruption of Christmas, Teacher: Tim Rice

<sup>26</sup> In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin’s name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> And he came to her and said, “Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!” <sup>29</sup> But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup> And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup> and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” <sup>34</sup> And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?” <sup>35</sup> And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. <sup>36</sup> And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. <sup>37</sup> For nothing will be impossible with God.” <sup>38</sup> And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

## 1. Get Acquainted: (10 min)

- If you were made King or Queen of the United States, what would be some of the most disruptive laws or changes you would champion? How would you react?

TimO's Example:

- Joyful Tax Payers - Tell our story so folks love and are excited about our country
- As King I would have Weekend Fundraisers to Pay off our national debt
- Be Gratitudes: End each day with a list of 10 specific "thank yous"
- Family, Family, Family

## 2. Worship: Songs - Prepare Him Room & Mary Did You Know? (10 min)

Worship God in response to listening to songs. Prepare your hearts to make room for the wonder of Jesus while you wonder with the artists just exactly what Mary could have known or expected. Lyrics are provided on the last pages of The Facilitator.

Prepare Him Room – Sovereign Grace Music on Spotify (4min)

<https://open.spotify.com/track/6sV6HdZw35Jjw6hEdwCyDD?si=xndmAqsRSn60hpDEYKHTa&g>

Mary Did You Know? – Pentatonix on Spotify (3:30min)

[https://open.spotify.com/track/4z8sz6E4YyFuEkv5o7IJni?si=E\\_jU\\_3GPT5-IltzIpMbOIQ](https://open.spotify.com/track/4z8sz6E4YyFuEkv5o7IJni?si=E_jU_3GPT5-IltzIpMbOIQ)

## 3. Kingdom Centered Prayer: (10 min)

YOU CAN PRAY WITH US...

1. Worship the LORD, God Almighty, our Maker and Only King. Praise Him, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, for His work to save us, breaking into this world to call us back to reality.

2. How have you lived independently and willfully ignorant of God's rule? Confess your pride and autonomy to Jesus asking Him to forgive you for defying Him and to change your rebellious heart to be truly loyal.

3. Give thanks for Jesus coming in such a way as to enter into the very nature of our disgrace to save sinners like us! Thank Him that in the place of shame He would glorify His Name.

4. Who do you know that is defiant? Pray for them, asking the Lord to show Himself merciful and powerful to them, and that He would convey to them the hope of new birth – a new heart toward their Maker and King.

5. Ask the Holy Spirit to bear in you His fruit of love and faithfulness. Pray for boldness and loyalty to Him that, because of His love, you would be willing to risk earthly shame to be known as His loyal subject.

#### 4. Sermon Reflection: (10 min)

**GOOD NEWS** - What exactly is Gabriel announcing to Mary?

Mary

What was Mary's life like the day before her meeting with Gabriel?

What was Mary's life like the day after they met?

What happened to Mary's reputation in her community? ... her reputation in heaven?

Gabriel

What was Gabriel doing the day before his meeting with Mary?

What was Gabriel doing the day after his meeting with Mary?

What happened to Gabriel's reputation? ... his reputation on earth?

Joseph

What was Joseph's life like the day before her meeting with Gabriel?

What was Joseph's life like the day after Mary's meeting with Gabriel?

What happened to his reputation in his community? .... His reputation in heaven?

**BAD NEWS** - How is God's rule disruptive?

What aspect of the coming of Jesus' kingdom has caused you the greatest disruption?

What aspect of Jesus as your king has been your greatest benefit?

**THE HOPEFUL TURN** - What has God come to accomplish?

How have you experienced the favor of God?

#### 5. Mission: The Mission of God is our mission. (10 min)

God came to us to accomplish our salvation and now He sends us out to do same.

Think of this holiday season and the weeks ahead, who you will be with and what opportunities you will have to love, listen and be a blessing to others?

- What has God come to accomplish in Jesus? Our Salvation
- What has God put on your heart to accomplish this Holiday Season?

#### 6. Jesus From Others (10 min)

Close your time together by letting each person share something they came to love about Jesus from something someone in the group shared during your time together.

- What do you love more about Jesus from what someone shared during our CG tonight?

## Prepare Him Room - Sovereign Grace Music (4 min)

O behold, the mystery now unfolds  
See the star shine on the virgin foretold  
Angels sing and light up the sky  
Hope rings out in a newborn's cry  
Swing wide, you ancient gates  
For Christ is born today!

Prepare Him room  
Prepare Him room  
Let the King of glory enter in

God with us, the promise has come to be  
This, the one the prophets were longing to see  
In the darkness a blazing light  
To the hungry the words of life  
His kingdom now is near  
For those with ears to hear

Prepare Him room  
Prepare Him room  
Let the King of glory enter in

Prepare Him room  
Prepare Him room  
Let the King of glory enter in

Oh, our hearts, as busy as Bethlehem  
Hear Him knock, don't say there's no room in the inn  
Through the cradle, cross, and grave  
See the love of God displayed  
Now He's risen and He reigns  
Praise the Name above all names!

Prepare Him room  
Prepare Him room  
Let the King of glory enter in

Prepare Him room  
Prepare Him room  
Let the King of glory enter in  
Let the King of glory enter in

## Mary Did You Know? Pentatonix (3:30min)

Mary, did you know that your baby boy would one day walk on water?  
Mary, did you know that your baby boy would save our sons and daughters?  
Did you know that your baby boy has come to make you new?  
This child that you've delivered, will soon deliver you

Mary, did you know that your baby boy will give sight to a blind man?  
Mary, did you know that your baby boy will calm the storm with his hand?  
Did you know that your baby boy has walked where angels trod?  
When you kiss your little baby, you kiss the face of God

Mary, did you know? (Did you know?)  
Mary, did you know?  
Mary, did you know? (Mary, did you know?)  
Mary, did you know? (Mary, did you know?)  
Mary, did you know?

The blind will see, the deaf will hear, the dead will live again  
The lame will leap, the dumb will speak the praises of the lamb!

Mary, did you know that your baby boy is Lord of all creation?  
Mary, did you know that your baby boy would one day rule the nations?  
Did you know that your baby boy is Heaven's perfect Lamb?  
That sleeping child you're holding is the great I am

Mary, did you know? (Mary, did you know?)  
Mary, did you know? (Mary, did you know?)  
Mary, did you know? (Mary, did you know?)