

The Apostles Creed
Mary, the Mother of Jesus



Overview of the message:

Hannah gave an overview of the life of Mary, looking at the challenges she faced, which we often don't consider when we hear her story. She showed how Mary held onto the truth of God's identity, and how despite situations looking hopeless/out of control, ultimately God was working for good. God's message to Mary was 'I am with you', and through Jesus, the same is true for us.

Questions

1. How would you feel if you were in Mary's position:
 - When the angel Gabriel came and told her she was going to give birth to Jesus
 - When Jesus died on the cross

2. In small groups – have there been events/situations in your life that you didn't understand why God allowed? How have you responded/dealt with these?

3. How does Mary's story encourage us when life doesn't work out the way we hope/expect?

4. What difference does knowing that God is with us make in our day-to-day lives?

Possible Answers

1. *Jesus' birth: concerned about what people will think (Joseph, family, community), will people believe me/reject me, worried about the responsibility, amazed/excited, this is crazy.*

Jesus' death: what are you doing God? Has your plan gone wrong?

3. *It's not unusual to experience difficulty in life, or to not understand what God's doing sometimes. We can still trust God and know he's with us, and know it's going to work out for good.*

4. *We don't need to be afraid. We can depend on God for help. We can know that there is purpose to each situation we're in.*