

**Discussion Questions for December 20 Sermon,
“Mary: The Dangerous Journey” Luke 1:26-45**

1. Read Luke 1:26-38, what was Mary’s first burden?
Even though God does not typically send an angel to speak to us, what lessons do you learn about how God speaks from the angel’s words to Mary?
How did Mary respond in v.29, v.34, v.38? What do you learn from Mary’s example? How do you know her responses were appropriate, contrast with Luke 1:18-20? How do you respond when you receive a word from the Word?

2. Read Luke 1:39-45, what was Mary’s second burden?
Why was this trip an absolute necessity for Mary? How do you think Mary was encouraged by Elizabeth and her response? Based on Luke 1:39-45, what kind of people does God use? How are you personally encouraged by this fact?

3. Read Matthew 1:18-25, what was Mary’s third burden? How would Mary’s news affect her future, her family, her place in the Jewish community? Has there ever been a time in your life when you were misunderstood because of your obedience to the Lord’s call on your life? What was the ultimate outcome?

4. Read Luke 2:1-7, what was Mary’s fourth burden? Think practically, what obstacles did Mary and Joseph face on their trip? How do you think they were able to persevere? Have you ever been inconvenienced as you tried to live a life of integrity? What enabled you to persevere?

5. Read Mark 3:21, 31-35, what was Mary’s fifth burden? What sin surfaced in Mary’s heart when she heard Jesus’ words in verses 33-34? Has there ever been a time when the “Word” has convicted you of sin? In what way(s) did you respond?

6. Read John 19:25-27, what was Mary’s sixth burden? How do you think Mary felt knowing that her son was such a source of controversy? What essential role does persecution play in the Christian life? Matthew 5:10-12, 2 Timothy 3:12

7. As Jesus’ mother, what were some of the miraculous things Mary saw Jesus do or heard Jesus say? What were some of the terrible things she heard and saw as a result of her son?

8. Mary’s burdens are also our burdens. Which of Mary’s burdens do you identify with most? Why?