

Sermon: A Word of Hope

Date: 12/16/18

Speaker: Tiana Spencer

Connect

Question of the Day. Highs and Lows. Share how last week's message influenced your week.

Last week, Pastor Michael challenged our concept of "hope." We can't arrive at *Deep Hope* until we (1) Face our fears and (2) Learn how to trust. What was it like to apply this message to your life this past week?

Engage: Sermon Review + Discussion

Read the Scripture Passage. Recap of the Message.

Read Luke 1:26-33 together as a LifeGroup. This is the third week of our Advent series, "Hope Has Come," a 4-week journey to the birth of Christ. In today's passage, we take a closer look at Mary, the mother of Jesus. Hope came to Mary through God's word and she responded to it in these ways: (1) She obeyed it; (2) She believed it; (3) She engaged it.

Discussion Questions

Pastor Tiana exhorted us to love the Word of God. She shared that oftentimes we as Christians *disregard* the Word of God, however we look at Mary's life and see her *responding* to the Word of God in these ways:

1. *She obeyed it.* Mary says "yes" to the Word of the Lord, even though she knows it will culturally cost her. She says "yes" to the Kingdom of God. Where do you struggle with having cultural significance over Kingdom influence? What does it mean to choose Kingdom over culture?
2. *She believed it.* After the angel spoke, Mary believed she would be pregnant with the Son of God. Do you know what God has said about you concerning your identity and purpose? Where might unbelief be costing you?
3. *She engaged it.* Mary "treasured the word in her heart." The Greek translation of these words is she "guarded and kept" the Word of God. It was personal for her. Is there anything God's Word has said that you need to treasure and hold in your heart?

Apply: Next Faithful Step

Pastor Tiana exhorted us to *obey*, *believe*, and *engage* the Word. As you look at the various areas of your life (i.e. family, work, ministry, school, relationships, etc.), what does it look like to take hold of your assignment this week? What word from God do you need to engage with in order to complete your assignment?

Prayer

Take some time to hear prayer requests from each member of your LifeGroup. As you lean into the hope of Jesus coming this Advent season, pray for one another, for your families, communities, our church, and the world.