

WHEN **God** WAS **Born**

CHRISTMAS AT HARVEST

Mary's Song

Dr. Jeff Bucknam | Luke 1:46–55

1. What's your favorite Christmas song and why? What's your least favorite Christmas song and why? When is it appropriate to start listening to Christmas songs? After Thanksgiving? After Halloween? After July 4?

2. Why does Mary write a song about God after she is visited by an angel? What does she say about God in the song?

3. When you compare Mary to Zechariah in Luke 1, what similarities and differences do you see? Why does Zechariah get punished for asking a question of the angel Gabriel while Mary asks a question and is not punished? What's different about the questions?

4. What modern examples can you give of someone not believing the "word of the Lord" like Zechariah did? What examples can you give of someone welcoming the word of the Lord like Mary did?

5. Why did God choose to use the humble and lowly instead of the proud and mighty in the Christmas story? What is it about pride that keeps one from God and what is it about humility that helps one trust in God? Do you think our church is more focused on embracing those of low and humble circumstances or those of mighty and excellent circumstances? What would it look like to value the lowly like God does?

6. Why do we tend to be uncomfortable with our weaknesses being known as Christian brothers and sisters? How do we foster a community where people feel like it's OK not to be OK?

Passages cited in the sermon... Luke 1:5-25. Luke 1:26-38. 2 Corinthians 12:8-10.