

GROUP DISCUSSION

Questions for facilitating dynamic discussion

Portrait of Mary

Week of December 22, 2019

Week 4: Passion (Jeff Griffin, Senior Pastor)

Text: Luke 2:19

God picked Mary for many reasons. One of them was her passion! We can learn from Mary how to ignite our hearts with passion for God and for all of His goodness in our lives.

Kicking it off: What did you enjoy about Christmas as a child?

Discussion:

1. Reread *Luke 2:19* "Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart."

What do you think Mary pondered on the night that Jesus was born?

2. Mary's "treasuring" indicates that she had the capacity to notice the precious signs of God in her life. Unfortunately, many people are blind to God's presence, truth and blessings. Why do many people fail to notice God's activity?
3. Mary's "pondering" is a reference to her habit of reflecting thoughtfully on God's activity in her life. Is there an opportunity in your daily routine for thoughtful reflection? Share when that is.
4. Mary pondered in her "heart." The "heart" was considered the seat of emotions. What can we do to feel the joy that God's love and blessings should bring?
5. There is a real danger of rushing through Christmas without ever connecting emotionally with the wonder of Christ's birth. What can you do to ensure that doesn't happen this year?
6. What aspect of your life do you need to become more contemplative about?

Wrapping It Up: Pray that God's Holy Spirit would help you learn to live more contemplatively like Mary.