**Running With The Giants: Mary, Mother of Jesus**

**May-13/14, 2023**

**Speaker: Tom Hughes**

Below are study questions that will help you and your Life Group dig deeper into this weekend’s sermon. Feel free to only use those which best fit your group’s allotted time.

**Scripture Reflection:** Read **Luke 1: 31-34, 38, 41-45 (NRSV).** Spend a few minutes reflecting on the passage, and then ask the group to share what stands out.

**Application Questions:**

1. Tom started by sharing, *“God is actively wanting and trying to meet with you.”* He added, *“Because God moments often seem impossible, the great danger we face when they come is we want God to fit into our understanding – our logic.”* 
   1. Looking back, do you recognize a God moment(s) that you might have missed? Was it because it seemed impossible, didn’t fit your understanding or something else? What did you learn from the missed moment?
2. Tom stated, *“When God moments come, let your hope count more than your questions. Mary must have had questions about having to face her family, Joseph, and the religious leaders, but she counted on God and His Word.”*
   1. Share a time in your life when you didn’t understand how a particular situation would unfold, but you responded in faith and said “yes” to God’s Word? What enabled you to stay strong in your faith?
3. Tom encouraged, *“When you say ‘yes’ to God – even when you don’t understand how it will all unfold – it opens the door for the best for your life!”*
   1. Share where have you seen this in your own life; God’s blessing waiting for you on the other side of your obedience. Was there any struggle in saying “yes” to God’s plan and how did God help you overcome that struggle?
4. Tom shared 4 phrases of encouragement he imagined we would hear from Mary, *“1) Stay connected to God, 2) stay connected to your purpose, 3) stay connected to the people who encourage you, and 4) stay connected to the bigger picture.”*
   1. Which of these 4 things do you think you are currently doing well? In which of the 4 would you like to grow? What is one faith step you can take for growth in that area?

**Closing & Prayer**: [set aside sufficient time for prayer]

* Pray for the personal prayer request(s) of those in your group
* Pray that those at CA would be a church that responds in faith to “God moments”
* Pray that God would continue to bless and grow our “in person” attendance in 2023