

5. Read and reflect on the promises of God found in Genesis 28:15 and Jeremiah 29:11. Where in your life are these promises reflected in your daily thinking? Reflect on them this week and ask God to use them to restore your faith where you have doubt or struggle.

6. Read Matthew 11:28-30 in different translations including The Message translation. What words stand out to you? What is burdening you in this season? What encouragement, challenge, or reminder does this invitation offer you personally?

7. What practical steps do you want to take this week to take interact with and experience the Holy Spirit more in your spiritual journey?

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## SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

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### **Surprised By Motherhood**

Mother's Day: Mary The Mother Of Jesus  
Luke 1:26-33

Mary was surprised by motherhood. Her response to a promise from God offers us a glimpse into the power of God's presence and mission through moms and family.

#### **Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.**

1. A \_\_\_\_\_ promise.

God's \_\_\_\_\_ comes with his \_\_\_\_\_.

God's promise is to fulfill his \_\_\_\_\_ for his creation.

God's presence and promise are his \_\_\_\_\_ on display.

"Parenting can put us into a fog, rendering many of us in survival mode, ready to pronounce any day in which everyone makes it to bedtime alive as a raging success. But we know in our hearts that more is required of us than survival. We cannot afford to simply make it through the day. Those survival days have a way of turning into weeks, and into months and years. Before we know it, opportunities to point our children toward faith in meaningful ways have fallen to the wayside in favor of just getting by." Jen Wilkin

2. A \_\_\_\_\_ response.

Mary responds in \_\_\_\_\_ based on God's promise.

Lean into God's promise, to alleviate the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ your identity as a child of God equipped to be on mission with him.

Mary's \_\_\_\_\_ is rooted in her relationship with her creator.

3. A \_\_\_\_\_ mission.

Mary's journey reminds us that God's promises are \_\_\_\_\_.

Mary recognizes that Jesus was born not for her own sake but as a part of God's \_\_\_\_\_ for the world.

Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.

- She is treasuring the \_\_\_\_\_ she knows.
- She is treasuring God's \_\_\_\_\_ fulfilled.
- She is pondering a mission \_\_\_\_\_.

### **Personal Reflection & Small Group Questions**

Please complete this study on your own, then bring it to your small group for discussion.

1. Looking back over your notes from this week's sermon, what particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. As you reflect on God's promise to Mary and her response to becoming a mother, which one of these things most stand out to you and why?
3. When you think of the people in your life who have represented the qualities of a mother, who comes to mind? Take a moment today to thank God for their presence in your life.
4. 2 Timothy 1:5 underscores the generational impact and legacy of a mother's faith. Read and reflect on how God can use you in this same way.