

# FEAR NOT

## THE INVITATION TO "FEAR NOT"

### I. How Do We Experience Fear?

1. Fear can make us act irrationally.

2. We all wrestle with fear.

a. To Mary, she feared the future. (Luke 1:30)

b. To Joseph, he feared for his reputation. (Matthew 1:20)

c. To Zachariah, he experienced FOMO. (Luke 1:13)

d. To the shepherds, they feared the evil in the world. (Luke 2:10)

3. Fear is a powerful emotion.

4. Fear is real.

### II. The Invitation to "Fear Not".

*"Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit.*

*And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.*

*She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us).*

*When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.”  
(Matthew 1:18-25)*

**1. Advent invites us to experience Jesus as God. (v. 18)**

*“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”  
(John 1:1)*

**2. Advent invites us to experience Jesus as Human. (v. 21)**

*“... He sympathizes with our every weakness.” (Hebrews 4:15)*

**3. Advent invites us to experience Jesus as “God with us”. (v. 23)**

*“... Surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” (Matthew 28:20)*

**Reflection Questions:**

1. Share a recent story of fear you have experienced in your life?
2. Which Advent character story resonates with you the most? Why or Why Not.
3. How will you accept the invitation to FEAR NOT this Advent Season? Share your response with someone this week.