

RECAP & REFLECT

Last week's sermon invited us to practice magnifying the Lord.

- What have you been magnifying the Lord for this week?
- As you reflect on your week now, is there anything else you want to magnify God for?

IDEA 1

Read Luke 2:6-20

Mary's response to the shepherds' announcement was different from everyone else's. While others were "astonished," Mary "treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart" (Luke 2:19).

- What's the difference between being astonished by God's work and pondering it?
- The Greek word *symbolō* means "to bring things together, connecting events, words, and meanings." How might this kind of intentional reflection deepen our faith compared to simply reacting to God's work?
- When was the last time you created space to truly ponder what God might be doing in your life?

IDEA 2

Of the three ways Mary pondered that we explored today—(1) holding mystery without demanding immediate answers, (2) creating sacred space for God's unfolding story, and (3) returning repeatedly to what God has said and done—**which one stands out to you most, and why?**

- What promise, prayer, or calling are you currently holding that hasn't unfolded according to your timeline? What does it look like for you to shift from demanding answers to sitting with God in the uncertainty this week?
- What does it look like practically to create "sacred space" in your heart for God's unfolding story? What would you need to say "no" to in order to create this sacred space?

- How does rehearsing God's past faithfulness help us navigate present mysteries and future uncertainties? What are your "stacked stones"—specific moments when God's faithfulness was evident in your life?

EXPERIENCING GOD TOGETHER

Individual Reflection (2-3 minutes):

Take time to write down a specific moment when God's faithfulness was evident in your life. This is one of your "stacked stones." Be as specific as possible—include dates, circumstances, and how God showed up.

Pair and Share (2-3 minutes):

Share this moment with a partner. As you listen to each other, notice how rehearsing God's faithfulness builds faith not just individually but communally.

Group Prayer (2-3 minutes):

Come back together and have volunteers share one "stone of remembrance" aloud. After each person shares, end by praising God in prayer for his goodness.

PRACTICE FOR THIS WEEK

Choose a consistent time each day to create sacred space for 5 mins. This could be during your morning coffee or tea, on your commute, during your lunch break, while exercising, before bed each night, during a bath or shower, in nature, etc.

During this time, reflect on these prompts:

- **What did I notice about God today?** (A moment of provision, peace, conviction, beauty, or His presence)
- **What do I want to treasure from today?** (A conversation, an insight, a challenge, a gift—something worth keeping in your heart)
- **What am I still wondering about?** (A question, a confusion, a mystery you're holding without demanding immediate answers)

Optional: Keep a simple journal or use your phone's notes app to record brief responses. You don't need to write paragraphs—even a few words or phrases will help you remember.