

ICEBREAKER

- **What's one quirky or meaningful tradition on your Christmas "checklist"?** (It could be a food, a song, a movie, or a ritual you always do.)

IDEA 1

Mary was going through required religious rituals when Simeon spoke prophetic words that completely expanded her understanding.

- **When has a routine moment (church service, prayer time, family tradition) suddenly become a place where God revealed something new to you?**
- **How did this revelation expand your understanding and wonder?**

Ash said, "The thing about checklists...it narrows my scope to my individualistic life, family or tribe, stripping the tasks of their wonder."

- **How have you seen this happen in your own Christmas traditions?**
- **What on your Christmas checklist has been stripped of wonder?**
- **What would it look like to approach one of your Christmas rituals this week with fresh eyes—expecting God to meet you there? What might you need to slow down or pay attention to differently?**

IDEA 2

Ash reminded us that the birth of Jesus is bigger than we think and brings with it:

A salvation broader than our categories

A redemption larger than our limits

A presence closer than we are comfortable with

A light stronger than the darkness we've named permanent

A healing deeper than the brokenness we've learned to live with

A love wider than our comprehension and stronger than our fear

- Which of these statements about Jesus resonates most right now—and why?
- Which of these statements feels hardest for you to believe or accept right now? What keeps you from fully embracing this truth?
- How might God be inviting you to expand your understanding of who Jesus is and what He came to do?

EXPERIENCING GOD TOGETHER

Step 1: Name Your Checklist (1 minute)

- In silence, think of one thing on your Christmas checklist this week (a task, tradition, or obligation)
- Hold that task in your mind—picture yourself doing it

Step 2: Invite God In (1 minute)

- Now, with that same task in mind, pray silently: "God, what do You want to reveal to me in this ordinary moment? Help me see what I usually rush past."
- Sit in silence and listen

Step 3: Share the Wonder (2 minutes)

- Turn to one or two people near you
- Share: What task did you think of? What did God bring to mind when you invited Him into that moment?

PRACTICE FOR THIS WEEK

Ash provided 3 different ways to respond to the sermon this week. Read through the opportunities below and discuss - **Which one jumps out at you? What does it look like for you to put it into practice this week?**

- **Pause for Wonder**

This week, intentionally stop once during a familiar Christmas ritual (driving, cooking, gift-wrapping, reading the story, making cookies) and ask: "God, what are You revealing here that I usually rush past?"

- **Name the Wonder**

Before Christmas ends, name one moment—small or surprising—where God showed up in the ordinary. Share it out loud with someone (family, friend, community).

- **Read with Wonder**

Open Luke this week, read beyond the birth story, and ask God to expand your view of who Jesus is and what He came to do.