



# CONNECTIONS

Sermonnotes— December 3, 2017

## Keyverse

*“I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May your word to me be fulfilled.” Then the angel left her. Luke 1:38*

## Captured by Wonder

*Control is the enemy of wonder so we need to have this spirit of openness and availability before God—and to be willing to surrender our plans to His purposes for our lives.* Pastor Dan

1. On a scale of 1-10, how planned and structured are you? How does your all-planned-out *or* your go-with-the-flow show up during the Christmas season?
2. Read Luke 1:26-38 and think about the rest of Mary's life. How do you think Mary felt as she realized her dreams and plans were changing? Do you think any of Mary's plans for her son Jesus worked out?
3. What are "God's purposes" for our lives? Are they the same for all of us or unique to each of us? Consider these verses and explain.
  - 2 Timothy 1:9—
  - Romans 8:28-29—
  - Micah 6:8—
  - Psalm 96:1-3—
4. Share a time when your dreams and plans for your child or job or relationship unexpectedly changed. How did you feel? In what ways have you seen God's purposes work out in your life because of this change?
5. In Luke 1:38, Mary said, "I am the Lord's servant. May your word to me be fulfilled." She was willing to alter her plans to fulfill God's purpose for her. Are you God's servant the way Mary was? How could you develop more of a spirit of openness and availability before God?
6. Which of Dan's five applications grabbed your heart? How could you respond in a way that fulfilled God's purposes for your life?
  - Try something new.
  - Do something different.
  - Experience something big.
  - Let something go.
  - Give something away.