



## ADVENT SERMON SERIES

# THE \_\_\_\_\_ THAT STOLE CHRISTMAS

### WORKING AT HAVING A BIG HEART

## Hurt

*Each year at Christmas season, there are a million reminders that it is supposed to be a season of joy, but what if it isn't? Sometimes, things get in our way and steal the joy of the Christmas season.*

- Circle Time: Share your worse Christmas experience of all time.
  - What is your least favorite Christmas song?
  - What time of the year is appropriate to listen to Christmas music?
  - What are some reasons that you know of why some people don't like the Christmas season?
- Read Luke 1:26-38
  - Why do you think Mary was troubled and the angel's greeting?
  - The Hebrew word for Jesus is *Yeshua*, meaning "Yahweh is salvation". How, if so, does that deepen your perspective on Jesus' name?
  - The language in v.35 can be a bit confusing. A parallel scripture is actually all the way back in Genesis 1. God's spirit or *Ruach* was hovering over the waters. The word for spirit here is the equivalent to *Ruach* in creation. What does this tell you about what God will be doing through Jesus? (*Jesus will bring about a new creation. For the world but also for each individual*)
- Read Matthew 1:18-24
  - First, Mary was troubled by the Angel's announcement and now Joseph is divorcing Mary. What do you think they are afraid of?
  - Pastor Nick taught us that fear of hurt can stunt the will of God in our lives. How have you seen this play out in your life?
  - What steps do you personally take to let go of hurt so you can lean more in on God?
  - What hurts do you have that we can pray together for?