



The Christmas season is full of joy, but it is also full of stress. And that's how it was when Christ was born—a time of joy and anxiety. Perhaps that's why four times in the birth narratives the angels say "Do not be afraid." This series will explore why Christmas should make us bold, because there's something about Jesus coming that makes fear leave.

Week 2: Fearless Surrender

1. Rick began by pointing out that *"Christmas calls us to be courageous."* How can our being courageous be a powerful witness to a people full of fear? When have you experienced someone's courage having a positive impact on others? How did that change you?
2. **Read Luke 1:26-38.** What stands out to you in this story? How would you feel if you were Mary? Follow up: Why is it important to model fearless discipleship for the next generation? How can we raise up teenagers with the faith of Mary? Who is someone that modeled surrender for you and what did you learn from their example?
3. **FEAR CAN ALWAYS... *find reasons to legitimize the unsundered life.*** We can always craft arguments that make *"be cautious"* sound more sensible than *"be courageous."* When has that been true for you? What did you learn from that experience? Follow up: What is the meaning of surrender and what does that look like for you today?
4. **DO NOT BE AFRAID... of *where surrender will take you.*** Mary knew she was saying *"yes"* to a life of disruption. What challenges did Mary face due to her decision to say yes? Follow up: What makes you most afraid and how could God use your *"yes"* like he used Mary? How does her example inspire you?
5. **DO NOT BE AFRAID... of *what surrender will cost you.*** God was going to stretch Mary in more ways than one. How has living a surrendered life stretched you recently? How can exalting Christ as Lord lead to living courageously (see **1 Peter 3:14-15**)? Follow up: Respond to this question Rick asked: *"Why would you settle for safe and miss the King?"*
6. **SURRENDER STILL... *brings Christ to the world.*** The call of Mary is the call for all of us. How can Mary's fearless surrender challenge us to trust God's plan even when it may lead to us being misunderstood? What is one fear you need to surrender?
7. Rick closed by reminding us that *"Nothing intimidates the darkness more than a surrendered life bringing Christ to the world."* What actions can we take to practice fearless surrender in such a way that it would bring more of Christ to our community this Christmas season?

