



Week 1 | Advent | November 28

Key Focus: Just doesn't meet our expectations; he exceeds our expectations.

Opening Up:

- Do you like surprises? Explain.
- Tell a story about when your expectations were exceeded?
- How do you handle unmet expectations?
- Are your expectations more often met or unmet? Explain.
- How have your expectations been met, unmet, or exceeded in your journey of faith? (There may be more than one answer here.)

Reference: Luke 2:22-40

Discuss:

1. Verse 32 says that Jesus would be a light to the Gentiles or a light to the outsiders. Jesus did not meet the expectations of Jewish nationalism; he welcomed the outsiders to join his kingdom. How has Jesus challenged your expectations of him?
2. What box have you tried to place Jesus in?
3. What do you think it felt like to be Jesus' mom?
4. It was prophesied in verse 35 that a sword would pierce Mary's heart. How do you think Mary's grief over Christ being pierced on the cross was different from the grief of other witnesses to the crucifixion?
5. How do think the cross defied Mary's expectations of Jesus?
6. Jesus, through his sacrifice, became a new kind of king of a new kind of kingdom. If you were explaining King Jesus and his kingdom to a friend, how would you describe it?
7. Jesus did not just die; he was raised. Jesus defied the ultimate expectation of death, death's finality. How does Jesus expand your expectations?
8. What is something you should be praying for, but you are not?
9. What keeps you from expecting the unexpected through Jesus?
10. Pray.