Introduction:

God comes face to face with humanity in sending His Son as a baby. The announcement of the birth of Jesus to Mary and Joseph was received with awe and wonder, confusion, humble gratitude, uncertainty, and fear. Yet, the angel’s assurance was “Fear not, the Lord is with you.”

Discussion Questions:

1. Review Luke 1:26-38 and Matt. 1:18-25 and imagine yourself in the place of Mary and Joseph. How would you be feeling? How might you have responded to the angel’s announcement?

2. Share about a time when you faced a fearful situation.

3. Seth said in his sermon, “often the foundation of our fear is not our circumstances but with whom we face those circumstances with.” Do you agree or disagree and why?

4. Why is the promise of God’s presence the way in which God chooses to respond to the fearful?

5. In what ways do you need to grow in faith and assurance of God’s enduring, sustaining, and empowering presences in your current circumstances?

6. In what specific ways can you come along side someone else and encourage them with your loving presence?