



# 9 Months of unmet expectations

WEEK 1 • NOV 29

JESSE TINK • EXECUTIVE PASTOR OF LEADERSHIP

## Introduction

This week, we begin our new four-week series entitled Nine Months, which follows the birth of Christ. In the first sermon, we explore the unmet expectations of Joseph, Mary and others who were involved in the birth of Jesus. As we navigate the complexities of life and COVID-19, they have much to teach us about how to manage unmet expectations.

## Discussion

1. What unmet expectations have you had in the last nine months due to COVID-19?
2. Consider what expectations Joseph, Mary, Zechariah and Elizabeth might have had and discuss as a group. If needed, reference the following verses: Luke 1:5-7, Luke 1:26-29, Luke 1:30-34, Matthew 1:18-19.
3. What does the Bible tell us about how they responded to their unmet expectations?
4. As you consider your last nine months, have you chased after God's expectations or your own? Explain.
5. What would it look like for you to respond to God during this pandemic in the same way we see Joseph and Mary responding to their circumstances?
6. Spend time in prayer asking God to give wisdom and encouragement to those who are navigating unmet expectations.

## Do Something

1. Take some time in solitude this week asking God to show you how your unmet expectations may be impacting your personal life.
2. Meditate on the birth of Jesus this, and consider how the characters felt as they navigated unmet expectations.
3. If you or someone you know is struggling with unmet expectations, read and study the following verses: Romans 8:28-35, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 and James 1:2-4.

## Resources

1. *Raw Faith* by Kasey Van Norman on RightNow Media
2. *The Mystery of God's Will* by Charles Swindoll
3. *Dancin' Toward the Dawn: Discovering Joy in the Darkness of Loneliness* by Tim Hansel