Dear Catalyst Parent(s),

We hope you're doing well! We're excited to be kicking off a brand-new Christmas series called ***Hark!*** We wanted to give you a heads-up about what we'll be covering over the next three weeks and invite you into the conversation along the way.

Christmas can feel like a season full of noise. Music, decorations, events, expectations. Hark! is designed to help students slow down and actually look at the story behind all of it. Each week we'll focus on a different part of the Christmas story and what it means for real life today. Our hope is that students walk away from this series not just knowing more about Christmas but understanding more about who Jesus is.

Below is a brief overview of what we'll be discussing each week, along with some questions you can use to keep the conversation going at home.

Series Overview

This three-week series walks through the Christmas story from three different angles: the people who trusted God, the people who encountered Jesus, and who Jesus is at the center of it all.

Session 1: The Message of the Angels

This week, we'll look at Mary and Joseph, two ordinary people who were asked to trust God with something completely beyond them. Neither of them had it all figured out. Neither of them felt fully prepared. But both of them said yes. We'll talk about what it looks like to trust God when you don't have all the answers and when the path forward doesn't make complete sense.

Big Idea: God can be trusted with the extraordinary.

Primary Scripture: Luke 1:26-38; Matthew 1:18-24

Questions for Discussion:

- Has there ever been a moment when you felt like God was asking you to trust Him with something you didn't fully understand? What did that feel like?
- Mary and Joseph both had moments of doubt and confusion, but they still said yes. Is there anything in your life right now where saying yes to God feels difficult?

Session 2: The Message of the Shepherds

Next, we'll meet the shepherds, the last people anyone would have expected God to choose. They were working the night shift in a field when the sky broke

open and angels showed up. After their encounter with Jesus, they couldn't stop talking about it. We'll talk about what happens when we encounter Jesus and how that changes what we do and say next.

Big Idea: When we encounter Jesus, we become the message.

Primary Scripture: Luke 2:8-20

Questions for Discussion:

- Think about a time you experienced something so good you immediately had to tell someone about it. What was it? Who did you tell?
- The shepherds told people what they had heard and seen, not a speech, just their experience. What would it look like for you to share your own experience with Jesus with someone?

Session 3: The Message of Jesus
In our final week, we'll go to the opening of John's Gospel and look at who Jesus really is. Not just what He did, but who He is at the very center of the Christmas story. John takes us all the way back to the beginning to show us that Jesus wasn't just a baby in Bethlehem. He is the Word, the Light, the one through whom everything was created, who stepped into our world to be with us.

Big Idea: Jesus didn't just bring hope. Jesus is hope.

Primary Scripture: John 1:1-14

Questions for Discussion:

- Where do you find yourself placing hope most often? How does that usually turn out?
- John says that everyone who believes and accepts Jesus is given the right to become a child of God. What does it mean to you personally to be a child of God?

Our hope is that these conversations continue at home. The Christmas story isn't just something we celebrate once a year. It's the story that changes everything. Your student is at an age where the questions they're asking about faith really matter, and your voice in those conversations is irreplaceable.

As always, please feel free to reach out with questions at any time!

Blessings,

Catalyst Youth