

Instafam Series

Study Questions: "Dream Child" – Luke 1:5-17

Note: The sermon on Sunday October 21 was a difficult sermon for many folks and addressed a subject that is filled with emotion and heartache. The questions that follow will be challenging to answer and share but please take the chance to invite people into your life's story and be willing to invest in the stories that others share. Remember, our task is not to have all the answers but to walk through life together encouraging each other to trust in God's work in our lives.

1. The story Pastor Joel taught from is a central part of the Christmas story. One of the principles he mentioned was that "not having a child is not a sign of God's punishment." When has been a time in your life that you have asked a similar question: **is my current situation a result of God's displeasure or punishment?** Can you share a bit of the specifics and how you came to some resolution?
2. There are times in our lives when our situation asks a related question: **is God ignoring me or has He gone seemingly silent?"** Share some personal experiences where you found yourself asking those questions. What precipitated these questions? To whom or where did you go for help or advice? Did you find the counsel of others helpful? Not helpful?
3. What have you learned from the above experiences about how you see God and understand His activity in your life?
4. What have you learned that is helpful in counseling and supporting those close to you who are having similar struggles? What have you learned is not helpful in navigating these "dark nights of the soul?"
5. Pastor Joel's final point is God's future providence in our life is revealed in Scripture as to be for "His glory and our good". Romans 8:28 Where are you on the journey of not only believing this promise but moving through life's challenges holding on to this promise?
6. Spend some time as a group sharing and praying for one another especially for those struggling with issues regarding children or grandchildren.