

## PRESENCE | WEEK 1

Date: November 29th, 2022

Verses: Matthew 1:18-29



### SERIES INSIGHT

**Presence** is a series designed to help draw our attention, affection, and devotion to the person, the power and presence of Jesus. We want to have a great measure of encounter - some for the first time, some to see God as more ever present, for some to be motivated to tangibly share the presence of God, but for all of us that God's presence may become more tangible and rich in our lives - near, close, and with.

### ICEBREAKER

- What is your favorite Christmas movie of all time?

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **Review the Message.** Looking back at your notes and upon reflecting on this weekend's message, what was your one takeaway from Sunday?
2. Share about a time when you encountered the presence of God in your life. In what way?
3. Des shared about Joseph's strength in standing between Mary and the mess of the people of their day wanting to stone an unwed pregnant woman for adultery. In the same way, what mess, struggle, insecurities, concerns, fears, disappointments, identity struggles have you had to step up in strength in your own life?
4. Have you ever had to step into a situation with strength for someone else that was not easy/comfortable? What did that look like?
5. Des shared a popular quote: "Freedom exists on the other side of your fear. Your greatness lives on the other side of your pain. Your real future is found on the other side of your failure." With this in mind, what does it look like to live a life that is "free"? How do you get on the other side of your fears?
6. Read Matthew 2:-13-15 (note Joseph's response to the angel of the Lord). God's voice is the most important voice to Joseph. Would you say the same is true for your life? Why or why not? Consider sharing about time when you had to make a choice about how you would respond to his voice.
7. Who are THREE people/families you need to invite to Christmas Eve at Grace this year? Why those people? And how specifically can we pray for them to encounter God's presence this season?

### PRAYER

- Allow people to share requests and celebrate any praise reports as well. Consider having someone write down the requests to share with the group. Take time to pray however long your group needs.



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