

HOPE FOR THE HOLIDAYS



MATTHEW 1:18-25 & Luke 1:36-38

FINDING HOPE THIS CHRISTMAS

BIG TRUTH: We can walk through the unexpected seasons and challenges of life with hope and joy as long as we walk through them with Jesus.

The manger becomes **MAGNIFICENT** because **JESUS** was there with them

1. Lean in to **ADVERSITY**

JOSEPH- "When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child"

MARY- "And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son...And Mary said to the angel, 'How will this be, since I am a virgin?'"

BIG QUESTION: DO YOU SEE GOD'S INVITATIONS AS INTERRUPTIONS TO YOUR LIFE OR INVITATIONS TO KNOW HIM BETTER?

2. Listen for **GOD'S VOICE**

Joseph- "But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying..."

Mary- "And he came to her and said..."

"Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world."

Hebrews 1:1-2

Just as surely as God spoke to Joseph and Mary, God has spoken to you through **JESUS**.

"These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you." John 14:25-26

The problem is not that God is not **SPEAKING**, it is that you are not **LISTENING**

3. Trust GOD'S PLAN

Joseph- "When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him:"

Mary- "And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word."

BIG QUESTION: DO YOU APPROACH THE UNEXPECTED TWISTS AND TURNS OF LIFE WITH TRUST AND FAITH OR FEAR AND FRUSTRATION?

YOUR NEXT STEPS:

- 1. WHAT UNEXPECTED SITUATIONS ARE YOU NAVIGATING IN YOUR LIFE RIGHT NOW?**
- 2. HOW HAVE YOU SPENT TIME GETTING YOUR MIND AND SPIRIT UNDISTRACTED TO SEEK TO HEAR GOD SPEAKING IN OR THROUGH THE SITUATION?**
- 3. HOW DO YOU SENSE GOD WORKING THROUGH THIS SITUATION?**
- 4. HOW IS GOD INVITING YOU TO KNOW HIM BETTER THROUGH IT?**
- 5. WHAT DOUBTS, FEARS, AND FRUSTRATIONS DO YOU NEED TO CARRY TO GOD REGARDING THE SITUATION?**
- 6. HOW IS GOD CALLING YOU TO TRUST HIM MORE AND KNOW HIM MORE DEEPLY THROUGH THIS SITUATION?**