

THE CHRISTMAS EXPERIENCE: FAITHFUL ONE (Week 3)

“The Lord is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in him.” (Nahum 1:7)

Leader’s Devotional

Life can sometimes feel so heavy, stressful, and scary. Let’s face it, even as a Christ-following leader, there are days when you face the future with great fears rather than great faith. As we’ll see in today’s study, Joseph faced days like these. From the outset, he faced major, life-changing decisions as he considered the leadership of his new family. How would he do this?

Perhaps in the midst of his circumstances, Joseph thought of the words penned by his ancestor, David, reflecting God’s exhortation: *“Trust me in your times of trouble, and I will rescue you, and you will give me glory”* (Psalm 50:15, NLT).

This verse doesn’t instruct you to “work harder in your times of trouble” or “go to counseling in your times of trouble” or “feel sorry for yourself in times of trouble” or “post on Facebook in times of trouble” or a thousand other things humans tend to do when life gets stressful. (None of those things are necessarily wrong, of course, and they can help, but none of them are the primary places to which we should turn.) God keeps it simple. “Trust me in your times of trouble.” His promise is twofold: He will rescue you and, when he does, you will give him glory because he did it.

When Joseph had difficult decisions to make, he stood up and led despite what people might think or say about him. That's what a leader does. He listened to and obeyed God even though it may have been hard to understand. That's also what a leader does. He trusted God in his times of trouble. Yes, that's what a real leader does. And when he does, he gives glory to God!

Before you lead this week's session, think about areas in your own life where you need to trust God more and yourself less. Consider decisions you have made or will be making and how you can listen to and obey God rather than listening and conforming to the culture around you. What is God teaching you about faithful leadership through Joseph's part in the Christmas story?

Purpose of this Week:

To develop our own faith and trust in God despite our life circumstances by looking at Joseph's selfless faithfulness.