



**IMPACT COMMUNITIES**  
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**Sequoia Impact Communities are a place to  
experience real life & real impact.**

To get plugged in email:

**impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org**

**The Unexpected - December 13, 2015**

1. What's one idea from the message that really stood out to you? Why did this idea grab your attention?
2. Share with the group about a time when something unexpected happened to you? What was the outcome and how was God at work in this situation?
3. Read 1:18-25. List the things that were unexpected in this story. What strikes you about Mary and Joseph's responses to these unexpected things? What can you learn from them as you face unexpected circumstances?
4. What do we learn about the character of God from this Gospel account? How does this relate to you today?
4. Read 1 Corinthians 1:18-25. How was the cross seen as foolishness by the people of Jesus' time? How does our society view the cross? How can we share the message of the cross in a way that helps people understand God's love?
5. What promise do you find in Romans 8:28? How does this encourage you today as you encounter unexpected things?
6. As you consider the action points from the message, what specific steps do you want to take to respond in faith? How can you apply these to your life?
  - Receive the gift of Immanuel.
  - Expect the unexpected.
  - Don't be afraid & trust God.
  - Do what the Lord commands.
7. What adventure do you feel God is calling you to? What do you need to do to embrace this adventure?



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## SEQUOIA NOTES

### Today's Sequoia @10:10 Message...

#### The Unexpected

With Ryan Dawson, Lead Pastor  
December 13, 2015



Matthew 1:18-25 This is how Jesus the Messiah was born. His mother, Mary, was engaged to be married to Joseph. But before the marriage took place, while she was still a virgin, she became pregnant through the power of the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Joseph, her fiancé, was a good man and did not want to disgrace her publicly, so he decided to break the engagement quietly. <sup>20</sup> As he considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. "Joseph, son of David," the angel said, "do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For the child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." <sup>22</sup> All of this occurred to fulfill the Lord's message through his prophet:

<sup>23</sup> "Look! The virgin will conceive a child!  
She will give birth to a son,  
and they will call him Immanuel,  
which means 'God is with us.'"

<sup>24</sup> When Joseph woke up, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded and took Mary as his wife. <sup>25</sup> But he did not have sexual relations with her until her son was born. And Joseph named him Jesus.

**Big Idea: God does the unexpected and adventure awaits when we respond in faith.**

📍 **God works in unexpected ways.** v. 18

📍 **God shows up in unexpected ways.** v. 20

Romans 8:28

📍 **God saves in unexpected ways.** v. 21

1 Corinthians 1:18, 25

📍 **God loves in unexpected ways.** v. 23

#### How do we respond in faith?

📍 **Receive the gift of Immanuel.**

📍 **Expect the unexpected.**

📍 **Don't be afraid & trust God.**

📍 **Do what the Lord commands.**

*The Translation of the Bible Scriptures used in today's 10:10 service are from the New Living Translation(NLT).*