



# Welcome!

SERIES: ANCHORS IN ADVENT

Today's Message: *Jump to a New Conclusion*

Dr. Lance D. Watson, Senior Pastor

**PRAYER:** Gracious God of Advent, thank you for the example we have in Joseph. He was an ordinary man who based on the knowledge and information he had jumped to an ordinary conclusion. Thank you for his willingness to hear your messenger. Thank you for his humility to jump to a new conclusion. Give us the courage to consider our conclusions and when we jump prematurely or wrongly to know we can always jump again. Thank you for your grace. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

**ICEBREAKER:** When you needed assistance and someone helped you, how was their help invaluable to you? Share your experience.

**INTRODUCTION:** In the Christmas story, Joseph draws the only conclusion he can imagine based on the information he has, yet his conclusion turns out to be wrong. Have you ever been caught jumping to the wrong conclusion? In Matthew 1:18-25 Joseph decided to quietly divorce Mary, but an angel was sent to tell him he had reached the wrong conclusion. When he wakes up, Joseph does what the angel commanded. Regardless of the impossibility, the inconvenience, and the cost, Joseph obeys. As we look at Joseph's life, reflect on where you may need to jump to a new conclusion.

**SCRIPTURE:** Read Matthew 1:18-25

## **DISCUSSION:**

1. What stood out in today's message? What's one thing you learned? What questions came to mind as you listened to the message today?

*"Nothing is impossible with God."* Luke 1:37 (NIV)

2. What has God asked you to do that seems impossible? How can this difficult situation teach you about faith? What steps do you need to take to grow spiritually so that you can see God's opportunities in your impossibilities?

*"When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife."* Matthew 1:24 (NIV)

3. Joseph's assignment changed the world, even though he was a supporting actor in someone else's story. Share the story behind the last time your plans were interrupted by the needs of another. Were you obedient to what God asked you to do? Why or why not? Looking back, what do you sense was God's purpose for that interruption?



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*“So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.”*  
Luke 2:4-5 (NIV)

4. What choices have you made to obey God in spite of a great inconvenience? Have you ever had the opportunity to surrender your life totally into God's hands and at what inconvenience to you? What unreasonable or inconvenient thing have you been asked to do to fulfill God's purpose?

*“Morning by morning he awakens my ear to hear what he is going to teach me.”* Isaiah 50:4 (NIV)

5. If God asked you to make a costly change in your life, could you do it as immediately as Joseph? Why or why not? Conversely, share a time when you didn't obey God and how this disobedience changed your life. What keeps you from trusting that God's way is better than yours?

**CHALLENGE:** Joseph was a righteous man because of his unselfish obedience. Perhaps you are meant to support another person's life for a time. God is looking for someone who willingly obeys. Are you that someone?

**SERVE:** Joseph was a righteous man because he lived according to God's word. Hearing from God begins with doing what God has already told you to do. To hear more clearly from God, where do you need improvement: daily scripture reading, praying, sharing in fellowship with other believers, sharing your faith with those who are far from God, managing your finances or your health, mending family relationships, giving a tithe of your money and minutes?

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Take this time to share group announcements. Church wide and campus specific announcements can be found at [www.myspbc.org](http://www.myspbc.org). You can also “find, follow and like” our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/myspbc](http://www.facebook.com/myspbc). Turn on your notifications.

**CELEBRATIONS:** Take this time to share praise reports (e.g. answered prayers, birthdays, anniversaries, promotions).

**PRAYER REQUESTS AND PRAYER:** Take this time to share prayer requests. Close with prayer.

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## We Care!

A large, solid red heart is positioned behind the text 'We Care!'.

NOTICE: PLEASE BE PATIENT AS WE GRADUALLY REOPEN OUR CAMPUSES IN THE SAFEST MANNER POSSIBLE. As a small group leader, we depend on you to show members that we care. Here's a list of resources to help you.

FOR PRAYER:

CALL: 804.463.2472

EMAIL: [prayer@myspbc.org](mailto:prayer@myspbc.org).

FOR COUNSELING:

CALL: 804.643.6177

EMAIL: [Barnabas@myspbc.org](mailto:Barnabas@myspbc.org)

TO REQUEST A HOSPITAL VISIT:

CALL: 804.304.3890 (For Emergencies)

EMAIL: [ecare@myspbc.org](mailto:ecare@myspbc.org).

TO REQUEST FUNERAL SUPPORT:

CALL: 804.304.3890 (Pastor On Call)

EMAIL: [ecare@myspbc.org](mailto:ecare@myspbc.org).

TO FIND A SUPPORT GROUP:

CALL: 804.643.6177

EMAIL: [Barnabas@myspbc.org](mailto:Barnabas@myspbc.org).

TO REQUEST EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE:

CALL: 804.643.4000

EMAIL: [emergencyassistance@myspbc.org](mailto:emergencyassistance@myspbc.org).

TO CONTACT MY LIFE STAGE PASTOR:

CALL: 804.643.4000 and Press 1 for the Dial By Name Directory

EMAIL:

Imagination (0-10): Vernita Williams: [Vernita.Williams@myspbc.org](mailto:Vernita.Williams@myspbc.org)

SMB (11-19): Martina Jones-Smith: [Martina.Jones-Smith@myspbc.org](mailto:Martina.Jones-Smith@myspbc.org)

Dreamchasers (20-29): Juan Shackelford: [juan.shackelford@myspbc.org](mailto:juan.shackelford@myspbc.org)

Aspire (30-39): Lance Watson, Jr.: [lance.watsonjr@myspbc.org](mailto:lance.watsonjr@myspbc.org)

Fusion (40-49): Michelle Townsend: [michelle.townsend@myspbc.org](mailto:michelle.townsend@myspbc.org)

Encore (50-59): Jamie Duncan: [Jamie.Duncan@myspbc.org](mailto:Jamie.Duncan@myspbc.org)

Prime Time (60-69): Maceo Freeman: [maceo.freeman@myspbc.org](mailto:maceo.freeman@myspbc.org)

Refiners (70+): Roscoe Jones: [roscoe.jones@myspbc.org](mailto:roscoe.jones@myspbc.org)

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*GPS is a study guide based on the weekend message. The purpose of this guide is to assist small groups in study. Previous GPS Guides are available online at [www.myspbc.org](http://www.myspbc.org).*