



PART 2 - THE “DO NOT BE AFRAID” CLAUSE

MATTHEW 1:18-25

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DECEMBER 14, 2025

MESSAGE NOTES

BIG IDEA FOR THE WEEK: BECAUSE JOSEPH OBEYED, GOD REVEALED THE REASONS WHY WE HAVE NO REASON TO _____

1. DO NOT FEAR FOR GOD'S PLANS ARE _____ THAN OURS

2. DO NOT FEAR FOR GOD'S PLANS ARE _____ THAN OURS

SMALL GROUP AND DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to extend the impact of the Sunday gathering. Use them to go deeper in your personal study time, with your family, and/or with your Life Group

1. Which part of the message was most impactful for you and why? Which part of this passage is easiest for you? The hardest?
2. Think about Joseph for just a moment. What stands out to you about how quickly Joseph obeyed? Why might he have responded so decisively? What does Joseph teach us about the difference between partial obedience and full obedience?
3. In what ways does fear make obedience difficult for us today? What kinds of fears stand between us and God's direction?
4. Why do you think the angel began with, “Do not be afraid”? How does God's presence help us deal with fear?
5. What fear is God calling you to surrender this season so you can obey Him? Where is God asking you to trust His voice over your feelings or fears? What part of your life needs an immediate “Joseph-style” yes?
6. Even though you feel there are things to fear in your life, which one is God asking you to release to Him this Christmas season?

God, thank You for choosing to use Joseph and including his life in the Christmas story. Help me to learn from his obedience so that I can obey You as well, because I believe that there is nothing to fear. Please work in my life to accomplish Your will and help me to obey when You give me the opportunity. In Jesus' Name, amen.

2. BETTER

1. BIGGER

BIG IDEA: FEAR