



session 1

GOD'S BAFFLING CHRISTMAS DECISIONS



YES:

1. I don't mind interruptions--even when I'm doing something important.
2. When someone does me wrong, I naturally try to find the least amount of punishment for them.
3. Joseph, Jesus' adoptive father, had been married before Mary.

NO:

4. Joseph was much older than Mary.
5. Joseph and Mary never had kids of their own.

NOTES

READ Matthew 1:18-19

dig deep

° Joseph seems like a pretty nice guy here, in the fact that he doesn't make a big public stink and have Mary stoned to death. But what else do we know about Joseph? What are some things that you have grown up hearing about him?

- ∞ How old was he when he proposed to Mary?
- ∞ Had Joseph been married before, and did he have kids already?
- ∞ What was his occupation?

° What elements of God's character can we see from just these two verses that Joseph shares with Him?

READ Matthew 1:20-25

- ° Put yourself in Joseph's place.
 - ∞ How would you feel about an angel announcing this news to you?
 - » How would you feel disappointed?
 - » How would you feel excited?
 - » What plans & dreams of yours would be interrupted?
 - » How would you feel about the responsibilities and sacrifices that God had volunteered you for?

dig deep (continued)

° Joseph's life was interrupted by a baby...

∞ Why do you think God chose to use this method to initiate salvation?

∞ Why do you think God broke into the world during Joseph's busiest and most secure moment?

° Are interruptions **obstacles** or **opportunities**? How does the presence of God change this?

embrace life

TALK WITH GOD THIS WEEK ABOUT:

1. How willing am I to let God interrupt my life?
2. What elements of God's character do I share with Him? How can I continue to strengthen them?
3. What new aspect of God's character does He want me to know?