

## **UNTOLD**

Ryland Walter | December 17-18, 2022

Week 3: Who God Chooses and Uses

### **How To Be Blessed By God This Christmas**

#### **1. LIKE JOSEPH:**

##### **Cooperate** \_\_\_\_\_

Joseph, to whom Mary was engaged, was a righteous man and did not want to disgrace her publicly, so he decided to break the engagement quietly. 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. And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins...” When Joseph woke up, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded and took Mary as his wife. Matthew 1:19-22,24 (NLT)

#### **2. LIKE THE SHEPHERDS:**

##### **Celebrate** \_\_\_\_\_

The shepherds hurried to the village and found Mary and Joseph. And there was the baby, lying in the manger. After seeing him... The shepherds went back to their flocks, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. It was just as the angel had told them. Luke 2:16,20 (NLT)

#### **3. LIKE MARY:**

##### **Contemplate** \_\_\_\_\_

When they had seen him, they told what the angels had said about this child. Everyone was amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured these things and continued to think about them. Luke 2:17-19 (NCV)

#### **4. LIKE THE WISE MEN:**

##### **Commit** \_\_\_\_\_

The Wise Men entered the house and saw the child with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasure chests and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Matthew 2:11 (NLT)

## **What's next at Rock Brook?**

### **Celebration Offering**

*A year end offering to support our ministry partners, fund a medical care adoption grant, and further the mission of Rock Brook Church.*

#### **Dec 23-24**

Hometown Christmas at Rock Brook  
“Cutting Through The Noise”  
RockBrook.org/Christmas

#### **Dec 31 - Jan 1**

“How To Look Forward To A New Year”  
*Start your year with God, commit it to Him, and hear how to make the most of the time he's giving you.*

#### **Jan 7-8, Jan 14-15, Jan 21-22, Jan 28-29**

“All Access — The Story of You and God”  
*A four week, churchwide sermon series on the Tabernacle, God's plan of salvation, and knowing God in a fresh way.*

#### **Jan 8**

Day 1 of 21 Days of Prayer  
*Three nights of worship: Sundays Jan 8, 15, 22 at 7:00 PM*

#### **Feb 4-5**

Introduction of DARING FAITH — The Key To Miracles  
*A two month spotlight on what God's Word says about faith, because everything God does in your life, He does through faith. From kids, to teens, to adults, Daring Faith will radically align our weekend services, small groups, and daily moments with God for clarity and purpose like never before.*

If you want to be blessed, get \_\_\_\_\_

Give yourselves completely to God—every part of you—for you are back from death and you want to be tools in the hands of God, to be used for his good purposes. Romans 6:13 (TLB)

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### **How To Be Blessed By God This Christmas**

#### **1. LIKE JOSEPH:**

##### **Cooperate with God's plan for your life**

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#### **2. LIKE THE SHEPHERDS:**

##### **Celebrate that God is here with us!**

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#### **3. LIKE MARY:**

##### **Contemplate continually on God's word**

When they had seen him, they told what the angels had said about this child. Everyone was amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured these things and continued to think about them. Luke 2:17-19 (NCV)

#### **4. LIKE THE WISE MEN:**

##### **Commit my time & gifts to Christ**

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## WHO GOD CHOOSES AND USES

Talk-it-Over Notes | December 17-18, 2022

### REVIEW IT

Today, the Christmas story is widely available and in many languages. But, when these events actually occurred, most people in the world completely missed them. Very few people got to be there when God came to earth. This begs the questions: Why these people? What made them so special? The truth is, they were not special at all. They were normal people just like us whom God chose to use and bless. How can I be blessed like those in the Christmas account?

1. Like Joseph, cooperate with God's plan for your life
2. Like the shepherds, celebrate that God is here with us
3. Like Mary, contemplate continually on God's word
4. Like the wise men, commit my time & gifts to Christ

Spend some time in the word... **Read Luke chapter 2**

### TALK ABOUT IT

- How do we see Joseph responding to God's command? What has God been prompting you to do? How could you make this a priority? How might this clear the way for God to act? Does it matter if you understand it or not?
- Revisit Luke 2:8-15. Even though the shepherds were of the lowest status, an angel of the Lord appeared to them to announce Good News for all people. How did knowing God was near affect the shepherds? In what ways will you respond to the Good News this Christmas?
- Imagine for a moment you are Mary, scared, young, and being told by an angel that you're going to give birth to God's Son! How would you have reacted? Scripture tells us she treasured God's words to her. In what ways does God prompt us to contemplate, or think more deeply about his Word?
- The wise men were educated and intelligent people of their time, and they followed God's star to find his promised Messiah. In what ways have you sought Jesus in your life?

### ACT ON IT

What are you giving Jesus for his birthday this Christmas? It's easy to think he already has everything—but he doesn't have your heart if you haven't yet given it to him—or your faith, trust, love, loyalty...he doesn't have whatever it is you are holding back. What are some things or heart attitudes you can give him? How will you go about it?

### PRAY ABOUT IT

Take some time to ask how you can pray for and support one another this week. Then, close praying for one another.