



A SEASON OF SURPRISES

Introduction:

It is amazing how the darkness can give way to the dawn. How the invisible can suddenly be visible. How utter hopelessness can morph into hope. All this and more, transpired one night in Bethlehem. God showed up, an "ordinary" baby arrived and everything changed. This Christmas, God invites us to experience the Bethlehem Surprise, and find the faith to believe that one Bethlehem night can change everything.

Scriptures:

- [MATTHEW 2:1-8-NLT](#)
- [HEBREWS 11:1-6-NLT](#)
- [1CORINTHIANS 1:27-29-NLT](#)

Discussion Questions:

1. What are your thoughts on the quote by Mohammed Fairouz about the age cynicism?
2. Bethlehem was not the kind of place where a king was expected to be born. How has God worked in the unexpected places and times of your life?
3. Pastor spoke about the "spirit of Herod." How has that spirit attempted to abort your supernatural expectations?
4. In what area of your life are you asking God to surprise you?

Moving Forward: A Season of Surprises!

1. BRING YOUR FEARS!
2. BRING YOUR FAILURES!
3. BRING YOUR FAITH!

"The age of anxiety has given way to the age of cynicism. Among my generation, cynicism is no longer a bad word: it's being celebrated, and often it's mistaken for intelligence. But cynicism is not intelligence. At its very best, it is the cause of missed opportunities as many of my age close their emotional and intellectual pores to new experiences. At its worst, cynicism can be a dangerous, world-breaking state of mind." - **Composer Mohammed Fairouz**

Changing Your Mind:

Instead, God chose things the world considers foolish in order to shame those who think they are wise. And he chose things that are powerless to shame those who are powerful. ²⁸ God chose things despised by the world, things counted as nothing at all, and used them to bring to nothing what the world considers important. ²⁹ As a result, no one can ever boast in the presence of God ([1CORINTHIANS 1:27-29-NLT](#)).