

FEAR IS NOT MY FUTURE

DISCUSSION GUIDE

SUMMARY:

As we begin our Christmas at the Hills series, Pastor Nathan shows us that the birth of Jesus frees us from fear and causes us to live in faith. During the birth of Jesus, a feeling of uncertainty crept into Joseph's mind, but the minute he was told that this birth will usher in redemption, his fear of the future vanished. Let's investigate this idea more clearly.

Key Passages: Matthew 1:18-25

Be sure to read this Scripture passage together before you proceed to the "Grow" section of our study.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION

KNOW: Spend some time finding out how everyone's week has gone.

The questions in this section provide a guide for connectivity; feel free to approach this part of your group time organically over a meal or "connection" activity or with questions appropriate to your context.

What is something that you are thankful for this week?

What is something that is causing you stress or concern this week?

Who in your life is in need of prayer, physical help, or emotional encouragement right now?

GROW: Grow in the Lord as you engage His Word together.

What are some things that bring fear into your life?

Read Matthew 1:20-23. What fear on Joseph's part does the angel address here? Can you recall a time when you were certain that God was leading you toward this kind of obedience? How did you respond?

Read Matthew 1:24-25. Do you think that Joseph's obedience to God became easy after the angel's visit? What sacrifices was Joseph now willing to make, and what do you think motivated them?

GO: Talk through ways you can put what you've learned into practice.

Do you think this outlook on the Christmas story will enable you to approach the risks or sacrifices that lie ahead differently?

Are there passages that you go back to in order to be reminded of God's nearness to you? What are they?

Is there a person in your life that needs to experience the nearness of God this year? Take some time in your group and pray for them.



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