

The Heart of Christmas

Discussion Guide

Week of November 26 - **"Trusting"** - "Joseph was a righteous man."

Scripture verse: Matthew 1:18-25

LOOKING BACK:

1. How has your relationship with Jesus been this past week? Are you spending time intentionally listening to God... asking Him how to love your neighbor this week?
2. What ways did you prepare this past week to be on mission with Jesus? What does your preparing look like?

Leader Note: As we enter this Christmas season, there is a sense of flourishing in the people we encounter during the arrival of Jesus to our world. For the next six weeks we will examine these special moments. Each person or group takes a step towards Jesus in faith and in trust of God's plan being revealed. We will do well to follow their example as we abide in Jesus and as a result foster a flourishing in our own lives.

OPENING QUESTION: Trust is something built over time rather than accomplished in one single event. As Christians, how do

we nurture or cultivate trust with the Lord? What daily activities build this type of trust?

LOOKING UP:

1. There was a lot going on when Joseph learned Mary was pregnant. Wondering how this could have happened without another man being involved would have been unbelievable and unacceptable too - even by today's standards. Trust would have been a core issue in this moment. What gave Joseph confidence to trust the Lord during this engagement season?
2. How did Joseph reconcile the thoughts and belief that Mary had an extraordinary encounter with the Holy Spirit instead of having a cheating moment with another man besides Joseph?
3. What set of events cultivated Mary & Joseph's trust in the Lord?
4. Can this level of trust be built in the Christian life? Explain.
5. Spend time reading this passage and answering the 1st two questions.

6. After spending time answering questions 1 & 2 re-read the passage in a different translation followed by answering questions 3 & 4.

<p>READ THE PASSAGE</p> <p>Matthew 1:18-25</p> <p>Answer the first 2 questions after reading the passage</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. What stood out to you most?2. What was challenging or hard to understand?3. What does this teach us about God?4. What does this teach us about people?	<p>RE-READ THE PASSAGE</p> <p>Read the passage again using another Bible translation... then answer the last 2 questions</p>
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LOOKING FORWARD:

1. Trust comes from knowing Him. When we spend time with someone, we begin to learn how they care for us and this gives us assurance that they do care for us. This forms the basis for our trust in this person. Part of trusting Jesus requires spending time with him. This week, carve out 10 uninterrupted minutes with Him everyday. Ask him to teach you to how to LOVE your

neighbor (anyone near you who is far from God is a great start) intentionally this week.

2. Partner up with another small group member and hold each other accountable to keeping your 10 minutes with the Lord and intentionally loving a neighbor.