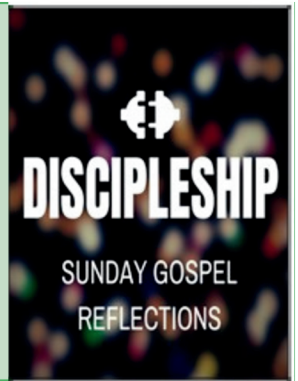


In preparation for December 21, 2025 Fourth Sunday of Advent

Theme - Thy will, not mine

“The angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream...when Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home.”

Matthew 1:18-24



Adults -

1. Joseph's response to God is an example of an "obedience of faith," which is an act of hearing with your heart rather than blindly following commands. Has there been a situation in your life when you followed your heart knowing that it could bring danger or significant consequences? Did you know you were being prompted by the Holy Spirit?
2. God chooses to become human. No words can ever do justice to this amazing reality. As we enter into the last week of Advent, take some time to consider what it means to you that Jesus entered the world, not a tyrant or king, but rather as a tiny, innocent baby. What is the significance of this?
3. The Incarnation is a mystery, not a mystery that can be solved, but rather a mystery that we can never entirely comprehend. We can know infinitely through faith that it is true, but never have definitive proof. Where are you in your faith as we near the end of Advent? Have you taken the time to marvel at the coming birth of our Lord or have you been too caught up in the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season?

Obstacles for living out the Gospel: Forgetting to reflect on the beautiful gift of Jesus during the season of Advent.

Teens -

1. Have you ever had to make a hard decision like Joseph, that required trust in God or someone else? How did it feel and how did you respond??
2. Joseph obeyed God even though it might have seemed scary or confusing. When has God asked you to trust Him in a situation you didn't understand?
3. How does this passage show that faith sometimes requires action, not just belief? How can Joseph's example inspire you to respond when life feels unexpected or uncertain?

Obstacles to living out the Gospel: Questioning whether God really knows what's best for our lives and if His plan is actually achievable.

Children -

1. What do you think would have happened if Joseph refused to take Mary as his wife? Do you think Joseph's "YES" to God's plan was important? Why or why not?
2. If the angel of God appeared to you in a dream, would you trust the angel's message like Joseph did? Why or why not? Do you think it was easy for Joseph to trust in God's plan? How can you trust in God's plan for you?
3. Do you think your "YES" to God is important? Why or why not?

Obstacles to living out the Gospel: Thinking it isn't important that we say our own personal "YES" to God.

