

SERMON BASED CURRICULUM

**Date & Sermon Series:**

December 5/6, 2015; Holiday

Speaker:

Campus Pastors

Scripture Focus: Matthew 1:18-25

Note To Leaders:

This weekend we discussed how the holidays can be filled with chaos and leave us in a daze. There will be a question or two specific to each CP's message, but feel free to use any question that resonates with your group whether you heard that particular message or not. These questions provide a framework to prompt or foster discussion in your small group. Don't feel you have to use all or any of these questions and you don't have to make it to the end! Use the questions that best fit your group and let discussion flow.

Icebreaker Suggestions: What is your favorite or funniest holiday memory?

Sermon Series Questions:

1. What thoughts are still resonating with you from the sermon?
2. What was most encouraging or challenging about this weekend's message?
3. In what ways did this message speak to you about the coming holiday season?

Specific Questions:

1. **BC/BRPM:** What is one thing we need to lift up to God this season? This could be a particular relationship, hope or dream for the future, or even a past experience. Further, how has lifting things up to God (and acknowledging that we don't have control) helped us in the past, and how could it help us in the future?

2. **BRAM-** Pastor Joel stated that often times our interruptions are God's interventions. Joseph's plans didn't fulfill God's purposes, so God intervened. When has there been a time in your life where you experienced an unexpected interruption of your plans? Are you more likely to respond by separating yourself from the chaotic situation or enduring it and why?

2. **BRAM-** Pastor Joel also talked about how there is a difference between right decisions and obedient decisions. Just because something may be right, doesn't mean it is what God is asking you to do. Are you choosing your plans or are you embracing God's purposes? What are some decisions you need to make today that will help you to choose being obedient over

being right?

3. **GT:** Which of the three principles outlined by Pastor Jeremy (1. Calm Conviction 2. Calm Commitment 3. Calm Consistency) is the most difficult for you to identify with or embody? What are ways we can begin to put these into practice?

4. **GV:** What area in your life can you choose to make a decision to honor someone else when they have not yet earned your respect?

5. **KT:** Pastor Josh mentioned that during chaos our plans usually involve stepping away from the chaos, similarly to how Joseph planned on secretly divorcing Mary. However, God's plan sometimes has us enter into the chaos. Have you experienced unexpected change that you would have handled differently had you not been walking with Christ? How did you cope with the situation? How has entering into chaotic situations affected your faith? In what ways do you think it has strengthened it?

6. **LT:** Pastor Rogers stated that, "Jesus came to save us from our scandals and messy situations. God can take our most scandalous situations and through his grace can make it our greatest joy." What messes or scandals in your life has God's grace redeemed? Would you consider any of them to now be the source of your greatest joy? Why or why not? Do you believe any of your current "mess" could one day be the source of joy? Why or why not?

7. **PY:** How have you experienced the grace of God during a Joseph season? How can you be a Joseph to someone who may have hurt you or needs grace this season?

Read, Pray, Act:

Read through Matthew and/or Luke's account of the Christmas story. Which example of trusting God in the face of uncertainty and ridicule seems the most unbelievable to you? Why? What are some of the messes you can identify that may have created chaos in the Christmas story?

With the holiday season coming up, as you think about the stresses, troubles, joys, inconveniences, and laughs, what are some of the things that put you in a daze around the Christmas season? Write these things down then pray about them. Lift them up to God and also ask for guidance to navigate these situations/people/events/etc.

Challenge:

Challenge: Pastor Dave stated that, "If the enemy isn't going to make you bad, he's going to make you busy." What can you do this Christmas season to ensure you stop, are in the Holy Spirit's presence, and not stuck simply being "busy?"