

Family Devotional

From December 18, 2016

Read: Matthew 1:18-25

Reflect: Joseph was a devout man of God and lived to follow Him. When Joseph first heard Mary was pregnant, he thought he was doing the right thing by stepping away quietly. He knew something was going on, but didn't realize God had a role for him in His master plan.

- How did God tell Joseph what he should do?
- What did God want him to do?
- Did this match what Joseph was planning to do?
- Whose plan did Joseph choose to follow?
- Do you think it was an easy choice to make?
- Why might Joseph be tempted to not obey what God was asking him to do?

Just like Joseph, sometimes God asks us to do things that might not make a whole lot of sense at first. They might cause us to face difficult tasks or be made fun of, but when we trust and obey God, we know we are part of a bigger adventure than we ever dreamed of.

Can you think of some people either in the Bible or throughout History that have made a big impact on the world because they obeyed God?

Some people's obedience becomes very evident while others happen more behind the scenes. We do not follow God's plan to become famous or get the praise of others, but because we love and trust Him.

We don't hear a lot more about Joseph after this story. He doesn't have his own book of the Bible or countless stories of changing the world, but this act of obedience made a profound difference to the life of Mary and Jesus. Can you think of someone like this in your life that has shown you the love of God in profound ways that others may never know?

Has God ever used you in this way? Go around the group and share about a time God asked you to do something that didn't make sense at first. How did you respond?

Sometimes God reveals the rest of His plan to us and other times it remains a mystery. That is why it is important for us to always keep our ears open and our hands willing to quickly obey whatever God calls us to!

Remember: Work together as a family to memorize/meditate Luke 11:28 this week.

He replied, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it."

Ideas: Write this passage down and hang it on the refrigerator. Say it together as a family during meal time each day. Write it on a chalk or white board and erase a couple of words each day until you can say it by memory.

Respond:

"Dear God, thank you for guiding and directing us. Help us to be quick to listen and obey your voice..... Amen!"