

Celebrate Christmas: 2 of 3
“Joseph’s Story”
Cornerstone Church of Poway
Pastor Ed Turley
December 24, 2023 – 9:15 AM

Big Idea: God uses ordinary people to do extraordinary things when we trust Him.

But when the **right time** came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, subject to the law. ⁵ God sent him to **buy freedom** for us who were slaves to the law, so that he could **adopt us** as his **very own children**.

Galatians 4:4-5 (NLT2) Remember Verse

Like Joseph, I Will Be:

1. A Faithful Follower Of God

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was **pledged** to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Because **Joseph** her husband was a **righteous man** and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to **divorce her quietly**. **Matthew 1:18-19 (NIV)**

Then he said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. ²⁴ For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it. ²⁵ What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit his very self? **Luke 9:23-25 (NIV)**

Notes: _____

2. A Faithful Spouse

²⁰ But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to **take Mary home as your wife**, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because **he will save his people from their sins.**" **Matthew 1:20-21 (NIV)**

¹ This is a trustworthy saying: "If someone aspires to be an elder, he desires an honorable position. ² So an elder must be a man whose life is **above reproach**. He must **be faithful to his wife**. He must exercise **self-control, live wisely, and have a good reputation**. He must **enjoy having guests** in his home, and he must **be able to teach**. ³ He **must not be a heavy drinker or be violent**. He must be **gentle, not quarrelsome, and not love money**.

1 Timothy 3:1-3 (NLT2)

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her ²⁶ to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, ²⁷ and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. **Ephesians 5:25-27 (NIV)**

However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband. **Ephesians 5:33 (NIV)**

Notes: _____

3. A Faithful Parent

“All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³ “The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel”- -which means, “**God with us.**” ²⁴ When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. ²⁵ But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name **Jesus.**” **Matthew 1:22-25 (NIV)**

“And you must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength. ⁶ And you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands that I am giving you today. ⁷ **Repeat** them again and again to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up.” **Deuteronomy 6:5-7 (NLT2)**

- **No one can destroy you in a place of obedience**

“After the wise men were gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. “Get up! Flee to Egypt with the child and his mother,” the angel said. “Stay there until I tell you to return, because Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.”¹⁴ That night Joseph left for Egypt with the child and Mary, his mother, ¹⁵ and they stayed there until Herod’s death. This fulfilled what the Lord had spoken through the prophet: “I called my Son out of Egypt.” **Matthew 2:13-15 (NLT2)**

➤ **What will it mean for me to be faithful this Christmas?**

My next right step, I will:

- Be faithful to the role God has placed me in.
- Trust God beyond what I understand.

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Family Corner: [Choose one day this week to ask questions to go deeper in faith as a family. Try this over dinner. Keep it to 12 minutes or less.]

Ice Breaker: What two positive qualities about your mom and dad come to mind as you recall your childhood?

Big Idea: God uses ordinary people to do extraordinary things when we trust Him.

**"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom His favor rests."
Luke 2:14 (NIV)**

Like Joseph, I Will Be:

1. A Faithful Follower Of God

Read Matthew 1:18-19

How would you feel if you were in Joseph’s place?

What would you say to family and friends?

Why did God trust Joseph with His son? V.19

Read Luke 9:23-25

What does it mean specifically to you to:
Deny yourself?

Take up your cross daily?

Follow Christ?

Lose your life?

2. A Faithful Spouse

Read Matthew 1:20-21

Do you think it was difficult or easy to take Mary as his wife?

What do you think their parents and friends would say?

Read 1 Timothy 3:1-3

What are the characteristics of a godly leader?

What attribute is easy for you to achieve?

Which one will take the most effort?

Who is a role model for you as a parent? Why?

Read Ephesians 5:25-27

How is a husband to love His love? How would this look in 2024?

Read Ephesians 5:33

What attribute should best describe a husband that loves God?

What attribute should best describe a wife that loves God?

3. A Faithful Parent

What would be going through your mind if God asked you to parent His son?

How would you describe a parent's role?

Read Deuteronomy 6:5-7

Whose responsibility is it to develop a child's spiritual heart?

How does this passage help you know how?

No one can destroy you in a place of obedience.

Read Matthew 2:13-15

How did God protect Joseph, Mary and Jesus?

What will it mean for me to be faithful this Christmas?