

Joseph *Matthew 1*

Joseph's Journey

- Joseph was a _____ (& _____) of David.
- Joseph was _____ about the _____ of Israel.
(Mark 6:3)
- Joseph was _____.
(v. 19; 1 Maccabees 2:23-24)

Joseph's Calling

- Marry a woman who is _____.
(v. 20)
- Make her son _____.
(v. 20)
- Raise a messiah who would save Israel from _____, not _____.
(v. 21; 1 Maccabees 2:49-68)
- _____ before seeing any of it _____.
(Mark 6:3)

Joseph's Decision

- Joseph humbly accepted a _____ role in God's plan.
(v. 24-25)
- Joseph trusted in a plan that didn't match his _____.
- Joseph recognized and embraced God's _____.
(Micah 6:8; Zechariah 7:9; Isaiah 1:17)

The Road to Christmas

- Like Joseph, we are offered a _____ role in God's plan.
- Like Joseph, we are asked to trust a plan that is _____ from _____.
- Our role is to share God's _____ with the world.

Discussion Questions

1. What did you find most interesting about the sermon this week? The most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling?
2. Have you ever had a time when God's plans turned out very different than your plans for yourself? How were they different? How hard was it to accept God's plan?
3. Why do you think Joseph wanted to be merciful to Mary, before he knew for sure that her pregnancy was from God?
4. Which part of Joseph's calling do you think was the hardest for him to accept? Why?
5. Who do you think better reflects the character of God: Joseph or Mattathias? Why?
6. What does it look like to make ourselves the main character of the story? What kind of problems does that create in the world?
7. What does it look like to make Jesus the main character in your story? What makes that so hard?
8. Most of us think of compassion as an exception to justice. For God, compassion IS justice. How should that change the way we treat others?
9. How can compassion help us to be open to what God is doing in the world?
10. How can you show God's righteous compassion to others?