



23 "Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means 'God is with us.'" Matthew 1:20-23 (NLT)

20 ...an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. "Joseph, son of David," the angel said, "do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For the child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit. Matthew 1:20 (NLT)

24 When Joseph woke up, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded and took Mary as his wife. Matthew 1:24 (NLT)

6 Without faith no one can please God. Anyone who comes to God must believe that he is real and that he rewards those who truly want to find him. Hebrews 11:6 (NCV)

■ Faith: putting into action what God is telling you to do.

God's direction:

● **Doesn't always make sense.**

10 But Elisha sent a messenger out to him with this message: "Go and wash yourself seven times in the Jordan River. Then your skin will be restored, and you will be healed of your leprosy." 11 But Naaman became angry and stalked away. "I thought he would certainly come out to meet me!" he said. "I expected him to wave his hand over the leprosy and call on the name of the LORD his God and heal me! 2 Kings 5:10-11 (NLT)

● **Is not always clear.**

● **Is not always what we want.**

● **Always requires that we trust Him.**

- You don't have to understand God's plan to trust His process.

- When we don't trust God the only response we have is worry.

6 Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. 7 Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus. Philipians 4:6-7 (NLT)

Putting an end to worry:

● I will do what God asks me to do.]

● I will give God what I cannot do.

7 Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you. 1 Peter 5:7 (NLT)

● No matter what, I will trust God.

5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding.

6 Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take. Proverbs 3:5-6 (NLT)

God always does the right thing:

Even when it takes longer than we'd like.

Even if it seems foolish.

Even if we don't understand.

We don't have to worry about:

● **What will happen when we know who's in charge.**

● **What we have when we know who provides.**

27 Can all your worries add a single moment to your life?...

30 And if God cares so wonderfully for wildflowers that are here today and thrown into the fire tomorrow, he will certainly care for you. Why do you have so little faith?

32 These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs.

Matthew 6:26-33 (NLT)

Have Questions? Text them to: (559)-464-5754

Questions that can be used in Connection Groups:

These questions also work well for personal time with God.

- What spoke most to you from Sunday's Talk? Explain why.
- You probably don't feel like God is always with you. Why do you think that is?
- Is worry something you struggle with?
- Read Matthew 1:21, 24; 2:13-15 2:19, 22-23. These are the different times God spoke to Joseph through dreams. How would you have responded if you had these dreams? How much faith was required from Joseph to do what God asked of him?
- If you have a Big Problem, how do you know what God wants you to do? (scripture, friends, talks, Bible, etc)
- Do you find the sub-points under "God's direction" to be true? Why?
- Do you think that God's direction to Joseph and Mary made sense to them? Why?
- Do you think it was what they wanted? Why? Did it require them to trust God? Explain.
- In your own words, what does trusting God look like to you?
- Under "Putting an end to worry", How do each of these statements work for you?
- Are you convinced that God is in charge? Does that remove worry?
- Are you convinced that God provides for you? Does that remove anxiety?
- Read Matthew 6:26-33. What stands out in these verses to you?

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