

A SERIES OF ~~UN~~FORTUNATE EVENTS ENCOUNTERS WITH JESUS

...we know that in everything God works for the good of those who love him, and are called according to his good purpose." Romans 8:28 (NCV)

We want this series to remind us:

- Every unfortunate circumstance is an **opportunity** to encounter God.

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 1:23 (NLT)

Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David! Luke 2:10-11 (NLT)

Here's the message just for you:

Don't be afraid **God is with you.**

- Detour's force us to **trust** God for direction.

Herod was furious when he realized that the wise men had outwitted him. He sent soldiers to kill all the boys in and around Bethlehem who were two years old and under, based on the wise men's report of the star's first appearance. Matthew 2:16 (NLT)

Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the reign of King Herod. About that time some wise men from eastern lands arrived in Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star as it rose, and we have come to worship him." King Herod was deeply disturbed when he heard this, as was everyone in Jerusalem. He called a meeting of the leading priests and teachers of religious law and asked, "Where is the Messiah supposed to be born?" "In Bethlehem in Judea," they said... Matthew 2:1-5 (NLT)

..."Go to Bethlehem and search carefully for the child. And when you find him, come back and tell me so that I can go and worship him, too!" Matthew 2:8 (NLT)

When it was time to leave, they returned to their own country by another route, for God had warned them in a dream not to return to Herod. Matthew 2:12 (NLT)

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." That night Joseph left for Egypt with the child and Mary, his mother, and they stayed there until Herod's death...Matthew 2:13-15 (NLT)

Lessons from the Christmas Road Trip:

- Potholes can be **expected**.

"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." Matthew 2:14 (NLT)

Times of uncertainty do not have to be times of **instability**.

Don't be afraid, for I am with you. Don't be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand. Isaiah 41:10 (NLT)

- Detours can be for our **protection**.

We don't have to know the **purpose** for the detour to trust **protection** of God.

I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you. Psalm 32:8 (ESV)

Times of uncertainty don't have to be times of **insecurity**.

The LORD is my light and my salvation; I will fear no one. The LORD protects me from all danger; I will never be afraid. Psalm 27:1 (GNT)

- God **provides** for off the grid experiences.

You can be sure that God will take care of everything you need, his generosity exceeding even yours in the glory that pours from Jesus. Philippians 4:19 (MSG)

Look at the birds. They don't plant or harvest or store food in barns, for your heavenly Father feeds them. And aren't you far more valuable to him than they are? Matthew 6:26 (NLT)

Don't worry and say, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?' The people who don't know God keep trying to get these things, and your Father in heaven knows you need them. Matthew 6:31-32

Times of uncertainty don't have to be times of **insufficiency**.

You can be sure that God will take care of everything you need... Philippians 4:19 (MSG)

God's protection provides:

AAA reminds us that God gives:

- **Protection** that's right for you.

The LORD will protect you from all harm; he will protect your life. Psalm 121:7 (NET)

Allstate's slogan that points us to God reminds us:

- You're in **good hands**.

For I hold you by your right hand—I, the LORD your God. And I say to you, 'Don't be afraid. I am here to help you. Isaiah 41:13 (NLT)

Humana Insurance reminds us that God gives:

- **Guidance** when you need it most.

Your own ears will hear him. Right behind you a voice will say, "This is the way you should go," whether to the right or to the left. Isaiah 30:21 (NLT)

Nationwide reminds us that God is:

- God is on **your side**.

God is our refuge and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble. Psalm 46:1 (NLT)



**TO CREATIVELY LOVE AND LEAD PEOPLE
IN A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.**

Questions for Connection Groups:

These questions also work well for personal time with God.

- What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Explain why?
- Have you ever felt that your life was detoured? Explain. How do you feel when experiencing a detour in life? What are the most difficult parts of detours?
- How do you think Mary and Joseph must have felt with their detour in life? (ex: fearful, questioning themselves, questioning God...)
- Is it difficult for you to accept that detours can be for your protection? Explain.
- God provided for Mary and Joseph during their "off the grid" experience. Have you ever experienced God's provisions while on a detour? Explain.
- How can we have hope during detours in life?
- Do the insurance slogans remind you of God's protection? Which of these slogans speaks most to you? Why?

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