



# WHEN YOU FEEL DISAPPOINTED OR STUCK

## WEEKLY ACTION STEP

This week read the biblical Christmas story (Luke 2:1-40 and Matthew 1:18-25, 2:1-23).

## BIG IDEA

When God's plan is different than you expected, He's doing something better than you expect.

## SCRIPTURE

Read Matthew 1:18-25 and Matthew 2:13-23

## OPENER

How have you experienced Jesus as "Immanuel," God with us?

## QUESTIONS

1. When you're disappointed by life or by God, how do you typically respond? Why do you think you respond in that way?
2. When the plan keeps changing, God's plan is better. What's an area of your life that keeps changing which might be an opportunity for God to make better?
3. Pastor John notes that Joseph and Mary gave up their own families to protect and raise Jesus. What can you give up in your life in order to better serve, trust, or obey God?
4. What is right in front of you that you know God wants you to do, but you haven't obeyed Him yet?
5. John talked about trusting and obeying God. How do those two action words go hand in hand?
6. Joseph and Mary's role in the story of God required sacrifice, trust, and obedience. In what ways have you seen those words play out in your life as you have followed Jesus?
7. Joseph and Mary were young adults who did not have many life experiences to rely on, only old testament truth and prayer. When you are faced with difficult situations do you trust in Biblical/scriptural truth and prayer for direction or do you rely on your life experiences? Explain.



## TAKEAWAY

- Obey what God has already revealed.
- Trust and obey God
  - When it doesn't make sense
  - Immediately
  - Faithfully
  - When the plan changes again

## DIGGING DEEPER

- In Proverbs 3:5-6 we learn God keeps His promises when we obey His precepts, (a practice intended to regulate behavior or thought), because our obedience prepares us to receive and enjoy what He has planned for us. What practices have you incorporated into your life that cause you to give yourself daily to God? How have each of these practices helped you to know God more intimately and live His version of your life?
- Proverbs 3:5 teaches us to trust God and not our own understanding. Do you think this means that you should not gather all the facts before you make a decision? Do you seek advice from wise friends? Most importantly, do you pray for God's guidance when making an important decision, and if not, how can you change that?
- In John 15:10 Jesus says that if we love Him, we will obey His commands. Many people go to the 10 commandments and think they are doing pretty well. Do you love Jesus? Read Matthew chapter 5 (If you have a Life Application Study Bible, pay close attention to the charts). How well are you showing your love for Jesus?
- Read Acts 9:1-22. It's easier to do God's will when it seems to make sense to us. But how often do we push back against what God is asking us to do because 'surely God doesn't know that person or that situation like I do'? Can you think of a time when you rationalized not doing something you thought God was leading you to do because you thought you knew better? Discuss that situation and what opportunity for you to be involved in the Kingdom's growth might have been lost?