



# What's Essential?

**Sunday, December 12, 2021**

Mary gets the spotlight in the Gospels, and rightfully so, but as one of Peter Mayer's songs goes, "Keep walking, Joseph, you're part of the plan." Joseph is often overlooked. He is more or less "the forgotten man." The news that his young betrothed was pregnant was earth-shattering (they were formally engaged in a legally binding ceremony—like they were already married). The initial news was a dark night in Joseph's soul. He took a disruptive moment in his life and found a way to play a critically important role in the magnificent story. Zechariah 4:10 states, *"For whoever has despised the day of small things shall rejoice..."* A small thing to one person may be a big thing to someone else. Just because a contribution is relatively small, does not make it trivial. Joseph was an essential character in the story—he just didn't get as much press as Mary.

Many men feel intimidated by women about spiritual things. Yet, the story could not have happened without Joseph. An essentialist asks, "What's the highest contribution I can make today?" Joseph worked quietly behind the scenes. Although he is hardly mentioned in the Gospel narratives, he played a key role. He provided for and protected Jesus and His mother. Joseph did the small things well. I love Josh Wilson's song, "Dream Small." He sings, "Don't buy the lie you've got to do it all. Just let Jesus use you where you are. One day at a time. Live well. Loving God and others as yourself. Find little ways where only you can help. With His great love, a tiny rock can make a giant fall. So, dream small."



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# APPLICATION:

Joseph considered his options carefully. The answer came to him in a dream. How do you think Joseph became an essentialist after his dream? How can you create space to hear from the Lord and discern His will for you? When have you felt overlooked? How do you feel about being called to fill a small role in a big way? Last week we focused on Mary and mothers. What can you do to encourage and speak into the lives of men and fathers during Advent?



## MESSAGE

Matthew 1:18-25

Senior Pastor  
Tom Harrison

## SCRIPTURE READINGS:

THE LOWLY

DEC. 13

Luke 2:8-20

DEC. 14

Psalms 103:20-22

DEC. 15

Psalms 148

DEC. 16

Isaiah 6:1-7

DEC. 17

John 17:1-5

DEC. 18

Ephesians 3:14-21

## WAYS TO GIVE:



**Electronic Giving**  
[asburytulsa.org/give](http://asburytulsa.org/give)

**Online Bill Pay**  
Name and address  
on the check



**Mobile:**  
Text the word  
"asburygive"  
to 73256



**Cash or Check:**  
Offering box  
or any time in  
the main office or  
the South Guest  
Services Desk.

# SUNDAY MORNING



**ASBURY Kids**

**9:30 & 11 am**



**ASBURY STUDENTS**

**9:30 am**  
Asbury Students Center



**Discipleship Communities**

**8, 9:30 & 11 am**  
Check [asburytulsa.org/communities](http://asburytulsa.org/communities) for full listing

# ○ Holy Night

## Christmas Candlelight Services

Thursday, December 23 | 5 pm

Friday, December 24 | 3,5,7,9,11 pm

# DECEMBER HOLIDAY EVENTS

## TONIGHT



### Service of Remembrance

5 pm | Mason Chapel



### Rick Fraley Concert

6-7 pm | Sanctuary



## Christmas Family Bingo

Sunday, December 19

6 - 8 pm | CLC

# college WORSHIP NIGHT

WHERE

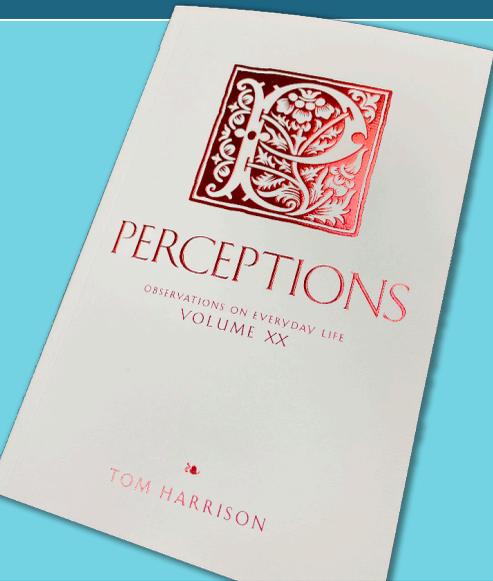


Notion Coffee  
321 S. Frankfort Ave | Tulsa

DECEMBER 19

6:30 - 8 PM

# PICS AND PERCEPTIONS



## PERCEPTIONS BOOK SALES

*We saved the best for last...*

Perceptions Vol. XX

Sundays: CLC Gallery

Weekdays: Main Office

\$10 each

## PHOTOS FOR CHURCH DIRECTORY



- We will be taking pictures on Sundays ONLY. (Photos will NOT be taken on Sunday, December 26 and Sunday, January 2)
- If you have questions, please contact Michelle Rafferty at 918.392.1122 or [mr Rafferty@asburytulsa.org](mailto:mr Rafferty@asburytulsa.org) or visit [asburytulsa.org/photosignup](https://www.asburytulsa.org/photosignup) to sign up for an appointment. Photos will continue until Sunday, January 30, 2022.

## SERVE OPPORTUNITIES

### CHRISTMAS EVE VOLUNTEERS

Christmas Eve is one of the biggest nights of the year for Asbury and we need your help **welcoming our guests!** Guest Services sign ups are located in the Family Room cafe or contact Lindi Collins at [lcollins@asburytulsa.org](mailto:lcollins@asburytulsa.org) for more information.

