



Message-based Study

Date: December 10, 2023

Teacher: Rev. Dr. William (Billy) Burch

Message: "Come They Told Me"

Video is available online at: visitccc.com

Connection

What is your favorite Christmas song? What do you love about it or what makes it special to you?

Content -

Like Mary and Joseph, God uses ordinary people in the Christmas story to orchestrate His plan. What else about the birth of Jesus may be described as ordinary?

Mary - From Openness to Eagerness

1. God called on Mary to be a part of the greatest thing that ever happened. Luke 1:26-30 recounts how Mary first hears the news that she has found "favor from God." Why do you think Mary was "afraid" and "confused"?

2. God tells Mary through Gabriel that she will give birth to Jesus, and He will reign over Israel forever. Mary responds by asking the simple question of "How can this happen? I am a virgin" (Luke 1:31-34).

How often do you ask God questions and are you open to what God asks of you?

3. Mary's response in Luke 1:38 was "I am the Lord's servant. May everything you have said about me come true." How can you practice putting your trust in the Lord for His plan with you and doing so eagerly?

Joseph - From Goodness to Willingness

4. Read Matthew 1:18-19. Hearing Mary was pregnant, and not wanting to disgrace her, Joseph went to break the engagement quietly. What fruit of the spirit (Galatians 5:22-23) did Joseph embody in that moment?

5. In Matthew 1:20-25, an Angel of the Lord speaks to Joseph in a dream and says, "Do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For the child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit." How did Joseph's actions change from goodness to a willingness to trust in the Lord?

God Sends You

6. When you come before God bring:

Your whole self

Openness

Eagerness

Goodness

Willingness

Which area do you think you need to work on growing in as you bring yourself to God as his servant?

Commitment

7. Jeremiah 29:11 says "For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope."

Knowing God has a good plan, consider what God is asking you to do right now. How can you give yourself to him today?