



The Big Ideas from the Message

- ◆ Hope believes “yes” when our circumstances say “no”.
- ◆ For all the hard work, good intentions, careful thought and faithfulness we may demonstrate, life can be turned upside down in an instant.
- ◆ Joseph’s heart was turned toward God.
- ◆ Sometimes, really bad things end up being better than we could have ever dreamed.
- ◆ Take a cue from Joseph, and discover new life, new hope, and the extraordinary sense of God at work in your life. He’s bringing all things together for the good.

HOPE WHEN YOU LEAST EXPECT IT

Matthew 1:18-21

Discussion Questions

1. We’ve all faced tough circumstances. Share one memory of such a time in your life. Why was it tough? How did it impact your life?
2. Joseph and Mary had dreams of a life together. This dream faced an incredible challenge they both had to overcome. Describe a dream you’ve had that was challenged? Crushed? Turned out differently? How did it impact your life?
3. Review Matthew 1:18-21. Scripture speaks to the righteous nature of Joseph. What are some ways Joseph demonstrated righteousness?
4. What do you think kept Joseph from walking away from Mary?
5. Responding to difficult circumstances or shattered dreams requires action. What are several steps you could take to better prepare for difficult times? In other words, how can we prepare ourselves to take righteous action *now*?

What will you do?

Are there circumstances or situations in your life that seems to be out of your ability to control? How can you choose to respond with mercy and tune your heart, as did Joseph, to Heaven?

Stop and pray for each person in the group as they respond to the above question. At the end of your time together, have one person pray a prayer of encouragement and blessing over the group.

Believing the Good News

As you become familiar with God’s Word, it builds your faith. Take a few minutes this week to memorize the verse below. Hiding God’s Word in your heart adds many blessing to your walk with Him.

“But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.”

~ John 20:31, NIV