

Small Group Study Guide

ICE BREAK

- How do you react to interruptions in your life?
 - Talk about an interruption that had an impact in your journey..
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STUDY

This week we focus on how God interrupted Joseph's life and his life-long response of obedience.

What did you hear this week that was new about God's guidance system, interruptions and obedience?

1. Read Matthew 1: 18-19

- a. How did learning Jewish marriage customs help you understand God's interruption here?
- b. Have you ever "had God figured out", and He then does something in unexpected ways?
- c. Tell a specific time when God did something to change your relationship with Him?

2. Matthew 1: 20-21

- a. Like the angel who visited Mary- he begins with "do not be afraid".
- b. How are new things in following God- scary at first?
- c. How are they not easy to see/believe?
- d. God used various guidance systems: angels, dreams, star, scripture, religious leaders pointing to Jesus' birth.
- e. Discuss a time in your life of difficult discernment- how He used guidance systems-people, to lead you.
- f. How has he used you as a part of a guidance system for others?

3. Matthew 1:22-25

a. Joseph **OBEYED** numerous times in his life. How do you react to authority/directives?

b. How has that affected your walk with God? Relationships in the church?

c. Joseph died obedient, not vindicated. Like Joseph, have you felt misjudged, not vindicated? How is God's vindication enough for you- less need to prove you are right?

d. What does Joseph's life of hidden obedience teach you about God working in your life?

e. Jesus was obedient. How does that impact you that God as human was obedient?

- a. Are you in a position where you are choosing to trust God- though others can't understand?
 - b. Is there something that God/Scripture has spoken clearly, but you are delaying in obeying?
 - c. In what way are you being called to leave your comfort zone and follow/share Jesus?
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REFLECT

- Reflect and Discuss: God works in my life in unexpected ways: past, present, future.
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PRAY

- Pray for each other to obey more than vindicate ourselves.
- Pray for trust in God's vindication
- Follow up on past prayer requests.