

Christmas Behind the Scenes

Week 3: 'Managing the Manger (Pt 1)'

“It takes courage to respond to God's call.”

Matthew 1:18-25

The Birth of Jesus Christ

18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. 19 And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. 20 But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” 22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

23 “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us). 24 When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, 25 but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

Managing the Manger Part 1

This week, we'll look at Joseph, the husband of Mary, and the de facto "father" of Jesus. We'll analyze/speculate about Joseph's response to Mary's news, his reaction to God's call, and his acceptance of the responsibility he's been asked to undertake.

Do we ever feel overwhelmed by life's pressures and challenges? Do we ever feel underqualified or unworthy to complete a task that's been assigned to us, or of a blessing that's been given to us? Or, by following Joseph's example, can we see the value in ourselves that God sees in us, and humbly put aside our own plans for life to follow his plans for them? Can we, like Joseph, show true love to others by elevating their needs over our own?

Challenge #1 Construct Your Confidence

Challenge #2 Construct Your Courage

Challenge #3 Construct Your Character

Prayer Requests



David Hornung (Kim Carroll's father)
Eddie Peters (Bea Burgdoerfer's friend)
Eddie Kerr

Ron & Teresa Scott
Sam Clark
Alea Lucas in the passing of her mother

**A weekly updated long term prayer list can be picked up in the lobby.



Vitals for December 3

Weekly Need: \$3,200
Actual Given: \$3,045

Sunday School - 27
Morning Service - 69

3 easy ways to give:

- 'Tithes & Offerings' box in the lobby
- newheightsconnersville.com/giving
- Mail to the church office

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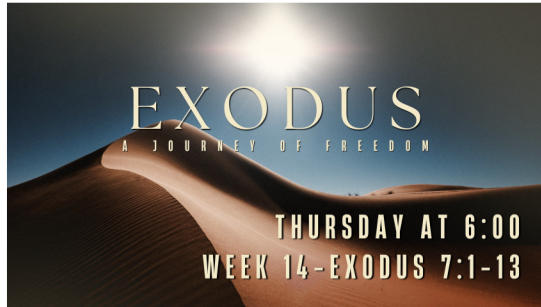
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If you haven't paid for your Poinsettia, please see Alea today.



WEEKLY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Zach Korff 12-12
Austin Gibbs 12-16

