



Story of Joseph: Struggling to find peace in the unexpected.

“As he considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. ‘Joseph, son of David,’ the angel said, ‘do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For the child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit. And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins. All of this occurred to fulfill the Lord’s message through his prophet:

*‘Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means ‘God is with us.’”
When Joseph woke up, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded.” Matthew 1:20-24*

Faith involves trusting God more than trusting ourselves

- *Faith & Obedience always go together*
- *God’s Plans Are Greater Than Our Understanding*

*“Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.”
Hebrews 11:1*

The gift of peace from God is not freedom of uncertainty... peace is from the certainty of God’s presence

*“When I am afraid, I will put my trust in you. I praise God for **what he has promised**. I trust in God, so why should I be afraid?”
Psalm 53:3-4*

External Peace comes and goes...

Internal peace comes from a relationship with God & hope in the His promises

*““I have told you these things, so that **in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble**. But take heart! I have overcome the world.””
John 16:33*

- What uncertainty do you feel in your life right now? Make an anxiety list
- How can you remain “in Him” to experience His gift of peace even while you are still “in this world” full of trouble? (John 16:33)
- What steps of obedience can you take today, to feel the peace of God’s presence as you know you are following Him? In prayer, offer exchange your list anxiety with your commitments to obedience and trust.

*“...in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus”
Philippians 4:6-7*

*“Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.”
1 Peter 5:7*