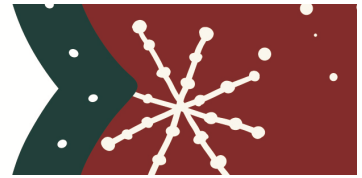


# YOUR BEST CHRISTMAS



## LESSON 2 // BEING YOUR BEST

**Big Idea:** The events leading up to Jesus' birth required some big choices on Joseph's part that helped him move from an ordinary life to an extraordinary life. We learn from Joseph about character qualities we must develop in our lives to be the best we can for the Lord. Like Joseph, we need to respect God, be gracious to others and be open to God's guidance.

**Matthew 1:19-21 (NLT)** *Joseph, her fiancé, was a good man and did not want to disgrace her publicly, so he decided to break the engagement quietly. <sup>20</sup> 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. <sup>21</sup> And she will have a son, and you are to name Him Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins."*

**Matthew 1:24-25 (NLT)** *When Joseph woke up, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded and took Mary as his wife. <sup>25</sup> But he did not have sexual relations with her until her son was born. And Joseph named Him Jesus.*

**Psalms 111:10 (NIV)** *The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow His precepts have good understanding. To Him belongs eternal praise.*

**Psalms 32:8-9 (NLT)** *The Lord says, "I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you. <sup>9</sup> Do not be like a senseless horse or mule that needs a bit and bridle to keep it under control."*

### Start Talking:

How gracious are you to others? Why can this be challenging at times?

### Start Thinking:

**Read Matthew 1:19-21.** What are some of the ways Joseph was gracious to Mary? Why is being gracious to others an important part of God's best for our lives?

**Read Matthew 1:24-25.** How did Joseph show respect for the Lord in his response to Mary? How does this speak to you about the kind of character God wants to develop in you?

**Read Psalms 111:10.** What does it mean to "fear the Lord"? How does this open the way for God's wisdom in our lives?

**Read Psalms 32:8-9.** Why is God's guidance so valuable in living your best life? What are some ways you can receive and respond to the guidance He wants to give you?

### Start Praying and Doing:

Ask the Lord to help you grow in your respect and awe for Him, and your ability to humbly receive and respond to His guidance in your life. Also prayerfully look for ways to be gracious in all your interactions with family and friends, extending grace and Christ-like love even when it's challenging to do this.