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MESSAGE APPLICATION Guide

Please feel free to pick and choose questions that relate best to you and your Life Group.

SIMPLY CHRISTMAS Getting Christmas Right **Week 2**

ICE-BREAKER: Is it easy for you to get a good family picture at Christmas? Can you relate to the pandemonium and chaos that sometimes precedes a peaceful picture?

What would it take for your Christmas family photo be as warm, as loving, and as joyful as the nativity picture the pastor showed us?

Is it possible that God wants to use you to positively influence your family, or break some unhealthy family patterns this holiday season? How might He be leading you to do so?

READ: Matthew 1:18-25

What do you think Joseph initially thought upon hearing the news about his bride-to-be?

Do you think Joseph's response to Mary's news was natural? How might you have responded in similar circumstances? What positive character qualities did Joseph possess?

What were the three battles Mary and Joseph had to fight and win to get Christmas right? How many of these battles have you had to fight personally? Are you winning?

Is disciplining yourself to strive for sexual purity and moral integrity really that big of a deal today? Do you think God would have chosen Joseph and Mary to be the key players in the incarnation story if they had been careless in these areas?

What do you think was the correlation between Mary and Joseph's commitment to personal integrity and God's decision to entrust them with the birth of the Savior of the world?

After the angel came to Joseph, can you imagine how he might have felt about extending grace to Mary? Do you think he was glad about taking the high road?

The Christmas story is a lot to believe. Do you really believe it? Do you believe it enough to stake everything on it? Do you believe it enough to tell others about it?

Will you fight for righteousness, for graciousness, and for trust this Christmas?