

## **Connect Group notes 2.12.24**

Chris began our Advent series, 'Holy Moments', on Sunday. He spoke about how we can experience holy moments in our day to day, even the mundane. He challenged us to consider how we can live more intentionally, to allow room for divine interruptions and 'noticings' on our part, by choosing grace over anger, faith over fear and in particular how instant obedience allows God to move in our lives, and the lives of others, in ways we could not possibly imagine.

Chris focused on Jesus' earthly father, Joseph, highlighting his instant obedience after having a dream telling him to take Mary as his wife, even though she was pregnant, and even though he knew nothing about where his obedience would take them and how it would impact mankind.

### **Discussion points**

*Read Matthew 1:18-21*

1. Joseph had many reasons to ignore or pass off the dream as a bad dream the night before...
  - What are some of the reasons we might hesitate to obey God instantly? (fear, uncertainty that it's God, control issues?)
  - How does the example of Joseph's obedience in the midst of uncertainty, and likely scandal and misunderstanding from others, encourage us to step out in faith when God asks us to do something?
  - Joseph's 'lowest' moment (releasing his wife to be, was pregnant not by him) became his 'holiest' – how can we apply this to our own lives?
  
2. Joseph's obedience had an impact on all of humanity and allowed for God's plans for salvation of mankind to come about;
  - What is remarkable about Joseph's obedience?
  - What is it about instant obedience that allows God to move?

3. Joseph didn't know where his obedience would lead, but still he obeyed...
- Does it mean our path will be easy if we obey what God asks us to do?
  - Why is it hard to give up the reins of our lives in our obedience to God?
  - How does our understanding of God help us to relinquish control to him, and needing to know everything before we step out in faith? (or not).
  - Why do we often hope for a public acknowledgment of our obedience, and why do we think God values quiet and anonymous faithfulness from us?

### **Application**

- How can we live more intentionally to make room for divine interruptions, and how might we recognise these when they occur?
- What is one way this advent season where we can invite Jesus to come and take the lead?

### **Prayer**

- That we would recognise holy moments in our days, and make room for them, to listen to what God is saying to us.
- That we would enter into a new season of stepping out in faith and obedience to God when we don't see the whole picture.