



December 8, 2019 - Sermon Discussion Questions

Opening

- What is the most surprising gift you've ever received?
- Have you ever received a gift that at first felt disappointing, but ended up being surprisingly valuable?

Discussion

- Have you ever experienced a feeling of disappointment or sadness after Christmas? Why do you think the gift giving and receiving of Christmas can sometimes leave us wanting?
- [Read Matthew 1:18-19](#). Put yourself in Joseph's shoes. From his perspective, do you think this would have felt like a "bad thing happening to a good person" situation? What can we learn from how he responds?
- [Read Matthew 1:20-25](#). In light of these verses, in what ways was Joseph correct, and in what ways was he incorrect? What can we learn about following God's will from these verses?
- Is there an area of your life where you are struggling to know God's will? Is it a situation where you are waiting for God to speak but just need to do what you think is most right? Could God be trying to do something unexpected in your life?
- Do you ever fall into the trap of "If I can get what I want, then I'll be happy"? What does that look like for you?
- How does your heart, rather than your circumstances, need to change this Christmas season?

Closing

- Who needs your presence with them in this season? How can you be with them in such a way that also shares the presence of God with them?