

Not Just Your Average Joe

Learning From Joseph's Journey:

Luke 2:1-7, Matthew 1:18-25 & 2:13-23

If God has a **plan** for my **life**,
and I have a **plan** for my **life**,
someone has to change **plans**.

God speaks even **clearer today** than he did **then**.

Tomorrow's **guidance** starts with today's **obedience**.

Redefining Our Christmas Celebration:

Luke 9:23 & 14:27

Christmas is:

- An **invitation** for **all people**.
- A **daily** choice.
- A **calling** (not necessarily **comfort**).

Food for Thought
For the week of December 24, 2017
(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

We heard this weekend how God was at work far beyond what Joseph knew or could have even imagined. The same is true for us. God is at work in those puzzling times when we wonder if he's even aware of what's going on in our life. Below are some verses that speak to how God works beyond our immediate circumstances. Look up each one and write the main point in your own words.

Psalm 55:22 *New International Version (NIV)*

²² Cast your cares on the LORD
and he will sustain you;
he will never let
the righteous be shaken.

Romans 8:26-27 *New International Version (NIV)*

²⁶ In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. ²⁷ And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.

1 Corinthians 15:58 *New International Version (NIV)*

⁵⁸ Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

Philippians 1:6 *New International Version (NIV)*

⁶ being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 3:19-20 *New International Version (NIV)*

¹⁹ and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.
²⁰ Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us,

Ephesians 6:7-8 *New International Version (NIV)*

⁷ Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people,⁸ because you know that the Lord will reward each one for whatever good they do, whether they are slave or free.

Can you look back and identify a time in your life where God was at work even though at the time you didn't recognize him? What did you learn about God through that time?

How has your faith and trust in him been affected as a result?

Christmas Reflection: Take some time to read and reflect on the Christmas story in Luke 2:1-20, focusing on being thankful for God's gift to you. You can do this by yourself or join with family and friends for a time of praise, worship and thanksgiving. You could also play this song "O Holy Night" to reflect on what God has done for us: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hJw-ey1DPRA>