



Behold Him | Just Like Joseph

12.10.23

START TALKING

Share how you first remember hearing the Christmas story.

- When did you first hear it?
- Who shared it with you?
- What do you remember thinking about the characters?
- How has your understanding and perspective of the significance of the Christmas story changed over time?

START EXPLORING and SHARING

Read Matthew 1:19, 24; 2:13-14, 19-21

Although scripture does not tell us much about Joseph, given the verses we do have, what can you conclude about what type of man he was?

- In what ways are you "just like Joseph"?
- How does it help you to know that Joseph was an ordinary person, just like you?
- What do you see in Joseph's faith and character that would have helped in times of stress and mess?
- What can we learn from Joseph's life when dealing with our stress and mess?
- Why do you think God chose Joseph?

(more on back)



Start Praying.

What stress and mess do you need to release today in order to receive God's peace over your life? Do you trust God with it? Do you trust him enough to give it over?

Father, I confess my need for Your peace, Your Shalom! My life is messy. I constantly am wrestling with thoughts of _____ [you tell God here—what kind of mess you are most wrestling with right now. Anxiety, Fear, Anger, Depression, Regret...] So this Christmas, because You are Immanuel—God in the middle of my mess...

I release my Anxiety and receive Your Peace.

I release my Regret and receive Your Forgiveness.

I release my Striving and receive Your Rest.

I release my Weakness and receive Your Strength.

I release my Depression and receive Your Joy.

I release my Despair and receive Your Hope.

I release my Mess and receive Your Shalom...

By Your grace, I receive Your peace right here and right now and forevermore! Jesus, You are not just THE Prince of Peace; You are MY Prince of Peace. Thank You that Your greatest present TO me is Your presence WITH me.

In the Mighty Name of JESUS, my IMMANUEL, I pray. Amen.

Start Doing.

- When you feel the stress come over you, stop! In that moment, pray this prayer and give it over to God. Allow his peace to come on you. Do not move forward until you sense His peace. His is near!
- Share this message with someone else who needs to experience God's peace