Week 2: Bethlehem Style

Daily Devotional

As you read these daily scriptures, ask yourself these three questions:

1. What is God saying to me?
2. What do I want to say to God in response?
3. How will I live out this truth?

**Day 1**: **Luke 2:4-5**

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.

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**Day 2: Luke 1:37**

For no word from God will ever fail.

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**Day 3: Micah 5:2**

“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clansof Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.”

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**Day 4: Luke 1:44-45**

As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!

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**Day 5: Luke 2:7**

And she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

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Discussion Questions:

1. What does Christmas mean to you? How does the commercialized side of Christmas (retail, “Happy Holidays,” etc.) impact your experience of the season?

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2.  Read Luke 1:37. How does this verse encourage you in moments when God asks you to do something without knowing all the details?

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3. Pastor Bob mentioned that Mary’s “yes” to God was not easy. What are some of the challenges that Mary might have faced by accepting God's call to be the mother of Jesus? How does her response of faith inspire you in your own life?

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4. Can you think of a time when God asked you to step out in faith, even without knowing the full picture? How did you respond?

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5. Making room for Jesus requires removing things from our lives. Is there something in your life that you feel God is asking you to remove in order to make more room for Him? How can you take practical steps to do that?

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6. The journey to Bethlehem wasn’t easy for Mary and Joseph, and their faith required trust in God’s plan. What is one area of your life where you need to trust God's plan even if it feels uncomfortable or uncertain?

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7. The sermon highlights Mary’s willingness to say, "May it be to me just as you have said." What would it look like for you to live with that same heart of surrender to God's will this Christmas season and beyond?

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