

# Joseph

Christmas often starts by untangling lights, hoping they light up. But 2,000 years ago, God untangled the world by sending us “the Light.” As we look at the stories of Jesus entering our world, we’ll discover how they are all stories of light.



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## INTRODUCTION

Today we took a closer look at Joseph, who may be considered a supporting actor in the historical recounts of Jesus’ birth and childhood but was a strong example in how God can use us to bless others if we are loyal, humble, and obedient.

## STARTER QUESTION

God values loyalty. How does loyalty manifest itself in your life? When you think of loyalty in scripture, what person or story comes to mind first?

## INTO THE WORD

Review Genesis 22:1-13, Exodus 32:1-6, John 18:7-11, and 1 Samuel 24. We all have surprises in our life. Our response to these surprises speaks to the kind of person we are. How did these people respond to surprises in their lives? Whose responses were pleasing to God? Who should have responded differently? How can we live our lives so that when surprises come, we respond in a Christ-like manner?

Pastor Paul referenced James 4:6: “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” Have you personally experienced this truth of scripture in your own life? Can you think of a story from the news or social media where this verse applies?

## APPLICATION

God frequently uses the humble to accomplish his plans. Moses was a murderer and slow of speech; David and Joseph were shepherds; John the Baptist lived in the wilderness; Jesus himself was a carpenter and chose his disciples from among fisherman and other common people. Why does God so often start with those with humble beginnings?

We should not be afraid of anything because God is loving, is all powerful, and has our best interests in mind. Even knowing all this, all Christians still experience fear. Why is it so hard to live fearlessly? What can we do to help adjust our perspective so that we can follow God fearlessly?

Joseph was willing to listen and obey when God revealed Himself to Joseph. What areas of your life are easy to listen and obey God? What areas are not as easy?

Pastor Paul mentioned foster care and adoption in his message this morning. Articulate in your own words how foster care and adoption illuminates the Gospel.

## PRAYER

Dear God, thank you for giving us the example of Joseph for us to see how you can use *anyone*, including each of us, to shine your Light into this world. Help us to be unwaveringly loyal to the people You place in our lives, always willing to respond to Your prompting, and humble enough to do these things without recognition. Amen.