

JESUS FOLLOWERS TRUST THE KING

ADVENT: THE KING IS COMING!

BIG TRUTH: JESUS FOLLOWERS TRUST THE KING

Psalm 9:10; 20:7; Isaiah 12:2; Proverbs 3:5; Isaiah 26:4 (Hebrews 13:8); Jeremiah 17:7; Revelation 19:16

BIBLE VERSE: MATTHEW 1:24-25

When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called His name Jesus.

BIG IDEAS

- We trust the King's perfect plan.
- We trust the King with our doubts and fears.
- We trust the King by obeying His Word.

BIBLE PASSAGE: MATTHEW 1:1-25

The birth of Jesus was long-awaited by God's people and meant that salvation had come to mankind. God's people longed for the coming of the Messiah and today, His people long for the King's return when all things will be made new and right.

ADVENT

Advent is a special celebration and contemplation of the coming of Jesus Christ that Christians participate in during the Christmas season. Advent literally means "arrival" or "coming". During Advent season God's people remember and rejoice in Jesus' first coming to save his people from their sins, while at the same time long with anticipation and expectation for his return. Advent centers on Jesus, the saving Son. He alone is the one true King!

BIG AIMS



Every student should know that:

- Jesus is the one and only King.
- Jesus came and is coming again.
- We exist for Jesus.



Every student should feel:

- The longing within their soul for the King.
- A dissatisfaction within their soul for things of the world.
- Awe and wonder that the King has come and is coming again.



Every student should strive to:

- Spend time each week with their family talking about the King.
- Memorize the Bible Verse each week.
- Tell someone else about the King who came and is coming again.



Every student should want to:

- Trust the King in the everyday struggles of life.
- See and seek Jesus more than anything else this Christmas season.
- Tell others who are lost about the good news of the King.

GUIDES AND WORKOUTS

The Guide provides a commentary page on each week's Bible verse and on each Big Idea that unpacks the Big Truth. Each week also includes a Student Workout as a resource to help the student pursue spiritual disciplines on their own. Additionally, each week has a Family Workout that helps equip parents and guardians to have spiritual conversations with their student.



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BIBLE VERSE: MATTHEW 1:24-25

When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called His name Jesus.

Joseph listened to God.

“When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him...”

- Joseph was presented with a unique opportunity. He was betrothed to Mary, yet she became mysteriously pregnant. We learn about the character of Joseph by the way he initially responds to the knowledge that she is pregnant. He decides to handle the situation quietly as opposed to doing so in a way that would bring a lot of attention to it.
- When Joseph heard from the angel of the Lord in his dream, he did exactly what he was told to do. He handled the situation according to God’s plan, revealing that he trusted God and listened to Him. We, too, can listen to God and trust Him in all situations and circumstances.

Joseph obeyed God’s command revealing a heart of trust.

“he took his wife...”

- Joseph didn’t just say he trusted God. He proved that he did by obeying God’s commands. Joseph proved himself to be a man of honor and a man who sought to please God by doing exactly as God commanded him through His angel.
- Joseph’s example teaches us that we can obey God’s commands and when we do, we reveal our hearts. If we truly trust God, we will obey Him no matter what it means to us and our life here on earth. It wasn’t an easy thing for Joseph to take Mary as his wife, but he proved he believed God over his circumstances by remaining faithful to her.

We can trust God and His plan.

“When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife...”

- When we obey God’s commands, we show the world around us that we believe Him. Just as Joseph took God at His Word and did all that God commanded him, we can do the same.
- We can always trust God and His plan even when it doesn’t make sense to us or we are unsure of how it will all work out. Joseph didn’t know the whole story concerning Mary and baby Jesus, but he trusted that God would do what He said He was going to do, and he believed Him enough to trust Him in all things.

JESUS FOLLOWERS TRUST THE KING

BIG IDEA #1: WE TRUST THE KING'S PERFECT PLAN.¹

[THIS]

In Matthew 1:1-17, Matthew presents the genealogy of Christ. By outlining the generation of people leading up to the birth of Jesus, Matthew reveals the fulfillment of God's promise to send a Savior. God made this promise in the very beginning of time after the first man and woman sinned against Him. He promised a Messiah to save the world from its sinfulness and He followed through with His promise. Beginning with Abraham, God revealed His faithfulness to do what He says He's going to do. His faithfulness continued through the generations of Abraham's family line all the way to Joseph, Jesus' earthly father. No matter the circumstances of His people, no matter their disobedience, or whether they were faithful or not, He continued to be faithful and fulfilled His promise to the world. God is a trustworthy God. He is faithful and true always.

[THEREFORE]

Read Matthew 1:1-17. How can studying the genealogy of Jesus help us to trust God more?

Romans 4:19-21 teaches us about the faith of Abraham, who believed against all odds that God was going to do what He said He was going to do. As we see God's promises unfold through the generations of people in Jesus' lineage, we can grow in our trust of God, knowing that He keeps His promises. Psalm 106:7-8 reminds us that God is trustworthy because His faithfulness does not depend upon us. God does what He says He will for His purposes.

[THIS]

As followers of Christ, we can trust His perfect plan because He is always good and always perfect. God never makes a bad decision or mistake. He is always right and always good. His plans are higher and greater than ours because He is infinitely wiser than we could ever be. He knows all things, controls all things, and does all things according to His perfect will. He is the Creator of all things and the sustainer of life. Who else knows better how the world and the people in it should live than the One who made them? We do not have to understand His plan to trust it. We can trust His plan because we know that He is good and perfect; therefore, His plan is good and perfect always. Joseph was faced with trusting either God's plan or his circumstances. He chose to trust God's plan and obey His will rather than trust his circumstances.

[THEREFORE]

How does Joseph's trust of God's plan over his circumstances help you trust God's plan for your own life?

Hebrews 10:23 reminds us that God can be trusted because He is always faithful. In 2 Timothy 2:13, we're reminded that God's faithfulness doesn't hinge on our faithfulness and 2 Thessalonians 3:3 promises God's faithfulness and protection of us. We can trust Him and His plan no matter what our circumstances seem to tell us.

What is a specific situation or circumstance that you are walking through where you can follow Joseph's example and choose to trust God's plan?

Often it is easier to say we trust God with our lives, but more difficult to do it in specific situations. Sometimes, when we suffer loss or we feel overwhelmed with things, we will trust in ourselves more than in God. Proverbs 3:3-5 is always a reminder to trust in God always and He will make our paths straight.

What thoughts or circumstances make it difficult to trust God?

Often fear can lead us to doubt God and cause us to focus on our circumstances instead of His faithfulness. Psalm 56:3 reminds us that God is always faithful and we do not have to fear. Philippians 4:6-7 teaches us the right response when we do have fear and doubts. As we seek God in prayer, we can grow our faith and trust in His faithfulness.

1. Luke 2:22-25: Simeon waited patiently for the coming of the Messiah and God's people wait for His return with patience.

JESUS FOLLOWERS TRUST THE KING

BIG IDEA #2: WE TRUST THE KING WITH OUR DOUBTS AND FEARS.²

[THIS]

The opening of the Gospel of Matthew reveals the truth that though our human minds might doubt and fear, God can and will do what He says. He can be trusted in every way. The first seventeen verses of Matthew stand as a testimony of God's faithfulness to His people through bad and good times. His people faced great adversity, suffered many things, sinned against God, yet God continued to act faithfully toward them. God's plan was not thwarted or stopped by anything His people did or didn't do. When we doubt because of our circumstances or even our shortcomings, we can overcome them and know that God is the same as always. We can trust Him as our King because He does not change according to our actions or circumstances. God is trustworthy and always will be. Joseph trusted God though he might have felt fear at his circumstances.

[THEREFORE]

What are some doubts you've had about God and His faithfulness?

Often we doubt God when we turn our eyes to other people rather than focusing on Him. Romans 3:3 reminds us that the unfaithfulness of others doesn't make God unfaithful. Deuteronomy 7:9 reminds us that God is always faithful no matter what and Numbers 23:19 helps us remember that God is not like man. When we see God as the God of the universe and understand that He is always faithful, we can overcome the doubts we might have.

[THIS]

Fear is an anticipation or awareness of danger or alarm. Often fear causes us to react or not act in a certain way. We may fear God's faithlessness. We may fear He will not be true to His Word or fear His wrath. Joseph may have felt these things, too. He may have wondered how his situation would work out, but he chose to trust God and His plan over his doubts and fears. Joseph faced the unknown in his situation and trusted God. We, too, can take God at His Word and believe that no matter what He is who He says He is. We can trust His promises in His Word and know that He will always take of His people. Just because we trust God with our doubts and fears doesn't mean our lives will always be great. Often, just like Joseph, we are faced with circumstances that lead to heartache, but we can always trust that God is near and working all things for our good and His glory.

[THEREFORE]

How has your fear kept you from trusting God?

Fear leads us to believe lies about God. When we fear, we believe that He is not good and will not take care of us. Matthew 6:34 serves as a reminder of what our response should be to fear and doubt. We should focus on God and who He is to dispel our fears. Psalm 94:19 also serves as a reminder that when we face fear, we can trust God and this helps us overcome it.

How can you trust God despite your fears and doubts this week?

In Psalm 27:1, the psalmist teaches us that when we trust in God we have no one or anything to fear. We can trust God despite our fears and doubts by choosing to think about God and who He is. We can remind ourselves of what is true of Him and hide these truths in our hearts.

2. Matthew 1:20: Joseph didn't let his fears keep him from trusting God's plan and will.

JESUS FOLLOWERS TRUST THE KING

BIG IDEA #3: WE TRUST THE KING BY OBEYING HIS WORD.³

[THIS]

In Matthew 1, we see that Joseph made a plan to handle his situation with Mary. When he discovered that she was with child, he quietly decided to end their betrothal. Though he had a plan, Joseph changed his plan when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in his dream. Instead of following through with his own plan, he chose to obey God's command. It would have been easier according to the world's standards for Joseph to follow through with his plan to end his betrothal to Mary, but it would not have been what glorified God. That Joseph chose to trust God by obeying His commands brought God glory. Joseph's choice revealed a man with a heart that willingly chose to trust the God of the universe with his life and the life of his family. Trusting God means obeying His Word. Joseph lived this out through his actions and submission to God's plan for his life.

[THEREFORE]

What is the difference between trust and obedience?

In James 2:14-26, James teaches us that faith or trust without evidence of it in our actions is not true faith. We can say with our words that we trust God, but if our actions do not back up our words, we aren't really trusting God. In Ephesians 2:10 we learn that we are made for Christ and to serve Him by serving others. Our trust of God, if genuine, will be evident in the way we live our lives and make decisions.

[THIS]

Joseph modeled trust in God through obedience when he obeyed the commands given to him by the angel of the Lord. Joseph didn't take some of the commands and obey them, throwing out the ones he didn't really like. He obeyed them fully even to the point of naming Mary's baby, Jesus just as the angel of the Lord commanded him. It is plausible that Joseph didn't fully understand what was happening in his and Mary's life, but he modeled what it looks like to trust God no matter what. We can trust God with our lives, even when we have no clear idea of what God is doing or how His plan is going to be accomplished. We can show we trust Him by striving to walk in obedience to His Word no matter our circumstances or the consequences that obedience may bring to us from the world. Joseph didn't choose the easy way when he obeyed God, but he did choose the very best way.

[THEREFORE]

In what areas of your life do you need to trust God by obeying His Word?

James 4:17 teaches us that when we know the right thing to do but we do not do it, we sin. In our lives it can be easy to overlook sins, but God requires complete obedience from His people. We can think we have hidden sins, but God knows them all. Romans 8:27 reminds us that God does search our hearts and knows our minds. There is nothing hidden from Him. We can model trust in God by walking in total obedience to Him.

Why is obedience hard for us sometimes?

In Luke 10:27 we see that we are all called to love God with all of ourselves. When we do not do this, we will find obedience to His Word hard. We will find it difficult to trust Him and to choose obedience to Him over the easy way of this world. When we do love God with all of ourselves, obedience will be a delight and joy.

3. Matthew 1:24-25: Joseph believed God and obeyed His commands.