



LifeGroup Discussion Questions

Christmas Contentment | December 10, 2023

Summary

We become content when we trust God and obey Him despite our fears.

Scripture

This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”). When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus. -Matthew 1:18-25 (NIV)

So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: “Out of Egypt I called my son.” -Matthew 2:14-15 (NIV)

...Having been warned in a dream, he withdrew to the district of Galilee, and he went and lived in a town called Nazareth. So was fulfilled what was said through the prophets, that he would be called a Nazarene. -Matthew 2:22-23 (NIV)

I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. -Philippians 4:12 (NIV)

Let's Start

What are you afraid of?

Gratitude and Prayer

How has God worked in your life since the last time we were together?

Let's Talk

1. Reflecting on Joseph's story, discuss a time when unexpected circumstances led you to feelings of fear or discontentment. How did you handle it, and what did you learn from that experience?
2. Pastor Kyle said that obedience is a sign of contentment. In what areas of your life do you find it challenging to obey God? How can trust in God's plan help overcome these challenges?
3. Joseph's response was characterized by a lack of grumbling or complaining despite facing difficult situations. How can we cultivate an attitude of gratitude and avoid grumbling, even when circumstances are challenging?
4. How can understanding and embracing God's greater plan for our lives help us combat fear and foster contentment?
5. Have you ever experienced a shift from fear/discontentment to contentment by trusting God's plan? If so, share that experience and the lessons learned from it.
6. The message ended with two reflection questions:
 1. Where am I disobeying God or where am I complaining?
 2. Then, thinking about that area of disobedience or complaining, what am I afraid of?

As you reflect on those questions, what insights did God give you about a fear you have?

Let's Act

Who in your life needs to experience the contentment only Jesus Christ can give? How can you reach out to him/her this season?
