

Hope Chapel Series: "Encouraging Christmas Lessons" - Part 1

Message Summary: Following God in this life doesn't require full understanding. It never does! It requires obedience. It requires following. The Christmas story teaches us this truth. Did the characters of the Christmas story fully understand what God was doing? Not even close! Have you ever been confused about God and what He is asking you to do, then today is for you. Take heart if you feel this way. You're not alone.

Following God Doesn't Require Full Understanding

1. Being confused following God is normal

A. Zachariah – He was a priest performing his service at the temple in Jerusalem.

B. Mary – Teenage girl who gets pregnant before she is married.

C. Joseph – The fiancé who is heartbroken.

D. Shepherds – Just minding their own business watching the sheep.

2. God tells us enough to follow but not every detail - 2 Corinthians 5:7

A. Let go of the expectation of an explanation - Job 40:2; Isaiah 55:8-9

B. What is the step of obedience God has revealed to you? - James 1:25; John 10:27

3. Our faith is in a Person we follow not in our understanding

A. God wants to grow our faith and trust in Him - Proverbs 3:5-6

B. God wants to grow our dependency on Him - John 15:5

Discussion Questions:

All LifeGroups are on Holiday break until January 23rd

1. Share your own personal experiences with confusion trying to follow God in this life.
2. How does it impact you knowing the people God used in the Bible struggled with being confused?
3. How difficult is it to let go of our expectation for more information from God and simply follow what He told us?
4. Is there a step of obedience you have been putting off because you want more information?
5. Discuss how following God with limited information grows our faith, trust and dependency on Him.
6. Share your own experiences how God has and is developing this in your life.