

Hope Chapel Series: “Encouraging Christmas Lessons” – Part 2

Message Summary: I love rooting for the underdog. Underdog stories fascinate me. I like sporting events where the team who has little or no chance of winning pulls off the miraculous upset. When average people do what seems to be miraculous, the world takes notice. This is one of the reality lessons we see from the Christmas story. God uses normal, average people to partner with Him to do the miraculous. God doesn't look for superstars. He looks for average people who will simply do what He asks.

God has Chosen Average People to do the Miraculous

1. God calls average people to be part of His redemptive narrative - John 1:45-46

- A. Mary and Joseph were average Jewish people**
(Living in a less than average village called Nazareth.)

2. Average people are a more effective witness to the world - 1 Corinthians 1:26-28

- A. The Kingdom of God operates by different rules!**

3. Kingdom power is the result of obedience

- A. Mary's obedience - Luke 1:38**
B. Joseph's obedience - Matthew 1:24

4. Every person has a role in God's redemptive narrative - 1 Corinthians 1:9

- A. If you are a follower of Jesus, you have a calling on your life as well -**
Ephesians 2:10; Ephesians 4:16

Discussion Questions:

All LifeGroups are on Holiday break until January 23rd

1. Share if you've ever struggled with believing God can use you. Why do we often struggle with these thoughts and feelings?
2. Discuss why God likes using average people to accomplish the miraculous.
3. Discuss the truth that Kingdom power is unleashed through obedience. How can human effort get in the way of God's power?
4. Read through Ephesians 4:1, 1 Corinthians 1:9 and Ephesians 2:10. What does it mean to be “called”, “partners with Jesus” and “do the work He planned for us”? Why do we struggle accepting this role?
5. How does discovering your role benefit the church?
6. What decisions do you need to make to grow in discovering your calling and role Jesus has created you for?