

GIVING UP CHRISTMAS

Christmas Miracles / Matthew 1:18-25

Miles McPherson - December 18, 2016

THIS WEEK: Pastor Miles, reminds us of how God wanted to involve Joseph in the miraculous birth of the Savior of the world! But Joseph was afraid. In the story, told by Matthew, God revealed His will to Joseph and challenged him to respond in obedience. To bless and honor the one whom he thought deserved no such thing.

Opening Discussion - Study Questions:

God is ALWAYS at work around us. Identify one person (friend, stranger, or foe) whom God has been revealing Himself to either through you, someone else, or circumstances that they may not even be aware of.

Consider a number of ways that you can personally bless that person?

What is one area of kingdom building that you fear or are most reluctant to engage in. IE: Giving your testimony, public prayer or worship, Asking others about their faith.....

Identify a "tangible" action that you can take to challenge and grow out of that fear. Who can you enlist as an accountability partner to help encourage you as you take action?

Group Activity - Putting Knowledge Into Action:

Pastor Miles made a point about the difference between knowing (about) God knowing (experiencing) God. Describe a first hand encounter that you have had, or regularly have with God, be it a small still voice or through the witnessing of a mighty miracle.

Make a commitment to the group (and God) to face the fear you identified in question #2 by doing one thing you identified in question #3. Send a text to your

group telling them how it went!

Going Deeper - Personal Challenge:

Make a list of people you feel led to pray for if you don't have one already. Identify their need/s (spiritual and or practical). Ask God how you can become involved with Him in the answering of those prayers.

Imagine setting the goal of being rejected for Christ's sake on a daily basis. Now imagine that it is much harder than it looks. Not because it's hard to engage people, but because it is much more rare than you think.

Taking it Home - Application:

Make a commitment to God and to those on your prayer list that you will partner with God in His work in the blessing of their lives

MEMORY VERSE: With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible. Matthew 19:26

BIBLE TRIVIA: When God said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God." He knew omnisciently that Abraham would not harm Isaac. What He could not "know" was the experiencing of the fullness of this event before Abraham had engaged in it. The emotions, the love, the obedience of Abraham & Isaac. God cannot experience that which has not yet been given for Him.

LESSON QUOTE: "Don't ask God to bless someone you're not willing be a part of." Miles

LIFE GROUP PRAYER REQUESTS:
