



SBSG – Remix Christmas: Joseph

The Purpose of a Sermon Based Small Group (to be read at the beginning of each gathering) The purpose of our small group is to actively pursue Christ through grace filled relationships.

READ ALOUD BY ALL (allow this prayer to shape your time together)

Dear God, help me in this dialogue to be humble & suspend judgment. I recognize that we are all created in your image. Give me courage to stay curious about each other by asking questions. Thank you, God, for this opportunity to meet together and in so doing grow closer to you. AMEN

Sermon Title & Synopsis: The word remix means to combine or edit existing materials to produce something new. Much like a remix takes pieces of familiar songs and fuses them into a fresh new song, the Christmas story can be experienced in fresh and powerful ways too. This Christmas, we're remixing Christmas by looking at the familiar characters of the nativity story—Mary, Joseph, the Shepherds, and the Magi—with a new perspective. Same story, but with a fresh beat that still points to the hope, peace, joy, and the love of God.

Joseph steps into the unknown, choosing trust over fear. His quiet faithfulness shows us the peace that comes when we surrender control.

Opening question: What's the funniest "I-have-no-idea-what-I'm-doing" moment you've ever had... that somehow worked out?

Bible Reading

Reading the Bible is about reading for practice and spiritual formation – spiritual formation, in which the reader seeks to be formed by the Spirit of God.

Matthew 1:18-25 (CEB), ¹⁸ This is how the birth of Jesus Christ took place. When Mary his mother was engaged to Joseph, before they were married, she became pregnant by the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Joseph her husband was a righteous man. Because he didn't want to humiliate her, he decided to call off their engagement quietly. ²⁰ As he was thinking about this, an angel from the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife, because the child she carries was conceived by the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you will call him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." ²² Now all of this took place so that what the Lord had spoken through the prophet would be fulfilled: ²³ *Look! A virgin will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they will call him, Emmanuel. (Emmanuel means "God with us.")* ²⁴ When Joseph woke up, he did just as an angel from God commanded and took Mary as his wife. ²⁵ But he didn't have sexual relations with her until she gave birth to a son. Joseph called him Jesus.

Bible Passage Questions

- Did anything in Joseph's story strike you in a new way or invite you to see something you hadn't noticed before?
- How does Joseph's response in Matthew 1 challenge our assumptions about where real peace comes from—especially when nothing in our circumstances changes?

From the Sermon

- When life gets overwhelming and confusing how do you attempt to control it?
- In what ways does Joseph's story invite us to rethink the difference between influence and control in the life of faith?

Digging Deeper on Your Own: <https://goodshepherdkc.com/remix>

Personal Prayer Request

Share a one or two sentence prayer request with the Small Group for this next week. Remember these prayer requests are about **your life**, not someone else's.

(Sample Prayer)

God, we thank you for your presence with us. We lift up these requests to you knowing that you care deeply about us...we pray for _____ and _____ and (fill in prayer requests) ... God we know that you have heard our request, and we release all outcomes to you and your glory. It's in your Son's name Jesus that we pray...**AMEN.**