

LONGING

AN ADVENT JOURNEY

GOING DEEPER AT HOME

DEC II: PEACE WHEN YOU FEEL CONFLICTED

The one thing many of us can agree on when it comes to Christmas is that while it is a joyful time of year, it also seems to be a very stressful time of year. Between buying gifts, stressing over the perfect gift, gatherings with that family member that is hard to be around, and everything else, many of us don't feel a lot of peace, especially when things we plan don't go the way we want. The story of Christmas invites us to see that peace is knowing God's plan is perfect, even though it disrupts our plans.

SCRIPTURE:

Matthew 1:18 - 25

GOING DEEPER QUESTIONS:

1. Do you like to get your Christmas shopping done early or leave it until the last minute & why?
2. What is something from the message that stood out to you, was new or challenged you?
3. Respond to the statement "peace is knowing God's plan is perfect, even though it disrupts my plans." Is this true or not?
4. What does peace look like for you? Do you feel you experience this? Why or why not?
5. Imagine you are Joseph and you hear Mary's explanation of her pregnancy. What are you thinking, what would you do?
6. Joseph most likely had plans for his life with Mary that were dashed because of her pregnancy. Share a time when the plans you made were suddenly gone. How did you cope with the sudden change?
7. Joseph's plan is to quietly divorce Mary, which is an attempt at self-preservation. How have you tried to do this in your own life?
8. Joseph is invited to take a step of obedience. How is obedience tied to experiencing God's peace?
9. What step(s) is the Holy Spirit inviting you to take so that you remember that God's plan is perfect even though it disrupts your plans?
10. What is something you can do this week to help bring peace into someone's life?