



Obedience in the In-Between

Week 1

How Did it Go?

10 Minutes

- Last week we concluded the series, Transformed: Practicing the Christian Life. Which of the practices in the guide found at fpchouston.org/transformed did you find most helpful in this season of your life?
- How were you challenged to grow spiritually during the series?
- What steps have you taken with the guidance of the Holy Spirit to become more like Jesus today than yesterday?

Read

Read aloud the passage for this week, **Matthew 1:18–25**.

Head

15–20 Minutes

1. What was Joseph's initial response to Mary's unexpected pregnancy?
2. The angel told Joseph not to be afraid to take Mary as his wife; what fears was Joseph likely experiencing?
3. How many words of Joseph are recorded in this passage?

Heart

15–20 Minutes

1. When he was betrothed to Mary, Joseph no doubt had good plans for a scandal-free marriage, yet God's greater plan for the salvation of humanity involved a scandalous marital beginning for Joseph. How do you respond to the possibility that obeying God may actually require you to relinquish your good plans?

2. Joseph obeyed God's commands in the face of considerable societal expectations regarding the acceptable response to pregnancy out of wedlock. What societal expectations might dissuade you from obeying God's commands?
3. Joseph responded to God's commands with obedient action, rather than words. In what circumstances are you likely to respond to God's commands with words, when action is required?

Hands

10 Minutes

Reaching Upwards: Growing in Your Relationship with God

- Meditate on Joseph's obedience to God's commands (**Matt. 1:18–25, Matt. 2:13–15, 19–23**), then:
 - Ask God to show you any way in which fear of failing to meet societal expectations is preventing you from obeying Him,

Ask God to show you any way in which fear of relinquishing your good plans is preventing you from obeying Him, or

- Ask God to show you any way in which obedience to Him requires action, rather than words.

Reaching Outward: Investing in Your Neighbors

- Ask God to show you any way in which you are putting off His call to help someone in a difficult situation.
- If you have been putting off God's call to help someone in a difficult situation, pray that God will grant you the courage to overcome whatever fear is hindering you, then take a step toward helping them.

Reaching Beyond

- Is there any other way God is leading you to put this week's study into obedient action, or to extend His compassion to others?

Alpha Prayer Points

- Pray for our church to invite their non-Christian or Christian-but-searching friends to Alpha.
- Pray for skeptics and seekers who come to the movie group, Ted Talk group, and Taco group to be willing to try Alpha.
- Pray for this Alpha to be a space where we will have at least ten beginnings of people's journey of faith towards the love of Jesus.