



LIFELINE Discussion Guide

Week of December 2, 2024

1. Do you think everyone should go to college and get a four-year degree? Why or why not? What are some of the “negatives” of attending college? What are some of the “positives” of community colleges, trade schools, or ‘on the job’ training programs? What are some blue-collar jobs that we need fulfilled everyday?
2. Read Matthew 1:18-15. What do we know about this man Joseph that God chose for Jesus’ earthly dad? How many times does Joseph appear in Scripture?
3. Why was Joseph planning to divorce Mary quietly behind closed doors? What was his reasoning for doing this? How do modern-day, secular Americans typically respond to accusations of cheating and unfaithfulness on the part of a spouse?
4. Joseph thought there were only TWO (2) options available to him. Have Mary stoned publicly as an example, or divorce her quietly behind the scenes without fanfare. What did God reveal as a third way (and the best option)? What encouragement can you take from this when you’re facing hard situations? (see also Matthew 6:33)
5. We don’t often think of Joseph as a godly, obedient believer—but that is exactly who he was. He showed kindness, compassion, and grace when it was least expected. How does God expect you to do this in your everyday experiences as a Christian? Give some real examples. (see Colossians 3:12-13)
6. When given instructions from the Lord, Moses made excuses. Jonah ran away. How did Joseph respond in verses 20-25? What does Jesus say about obedience in John 14:21? Where are some areas of your Christian life where you need to see improvement in your obedience to the Lord?
7. Many people come to church during Christmas, and they have the intellect to understand the basics of Jesus’ birth story. Does this mean that he/she is a Christian? What important truth can you help them to understand? (see John 1:12 and John 3:16)
8. Joseph was an ordinary, blue-collar carpenter that God chose to be Jesus’ earthly dad. What does this say about the kind of people that God still uses today? Have you considered that God can use you?

Close your Life Group in a time of group prayer, asking God to help you to be open and obedient to be used for His good plans and purposes.

Humble hearts and holy lives turn ordinary people into extraordinary heroes.