

Life Group Notes 11/12/22

Expected - the Preparation for Delivery

Introduction

Have you had any particularly good or particularly bad parcel delivery experiences?

Can you quickly list all the people involved for a parcel to be delivered from the point you place the order? Remember, what you order could be coming from overseas!

Maybe stop and give thanks for all those working so hard behind the scenes in warehouses etc etc

The People - Matthew 1:18-25

Why do you think God might have chosen Mary and Joseph to be Jesus' parents?

What reassurances did the angel give to Joseph?

In Luke 1:28 the angel describes Mary as being “highly favoured”. What were the implications for Mary and Joseph of “God’s favour”?

In what ways has God favoured us?

The Place - Luke 2:1-7

How did God prepare the way for Jesus to be born in Bethlehem?

Why was it important that he was born there (see Micah 5:2-4)?

How do you think Mary and Joseph felt about the census?

What might we learn for our own lives from their experience?

The Time - Galatians 4:4-5

Do you have any suggestions about why God set this specific time in history for Jesus to be born (there are no right or wrong answers!)

What was God's purpose in Jesus coming? Can you express it in your own words?

How does God's preparation for Jesus' birth help us when we think about Jesus' return?

Personal reflection

We have been thinking about how God prepared for the delivery of his Son, working invisibly behind the scenes for the great day that we celebrate as Christmas Day.

How are you preparing to receive the gift of Jesus this advent season? Maybe reflect on these words from J S Bach's "Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring", translated from German:

*Jesus stay as my joy, my heart's comfort and lifeblood.
Jesus fight all my suffering. He is the driving force of my life,
the joy and sunlight of my eyes, the love and delight of my
soul. That's why I'll not let Jesus out of my heart or sight.*