



Your story matters.



MYRC.CHURCH



“**RESET OR** *Resentment?*”

TOM LUNDEEN, SENIOR PASTOR

MESSAGE NOTES

Most of us have heard of the wise men/_____ and their connection to the Christmas story; but we may not be quite as aware of 3 _____ who all have a very unique part of the story of the birth of Jesus.

Note [Galatians 4:4a](#)

...their experiences, while 2,000 years old, are incredibly _____ to what we've been experiencing during this challenging year...

1. Who Was _____?

Note [Luke 1:5-7](#)

...as a husband and wife in this culture at this time in history, being childless was not just a personal matter of frustration and _____, but they would be viewed by others as being _____ by God...

She _____ the wrong assumptions of others, at some level the disappointment of her husband...and her own personal _____, frustration, and questions.

2. What Do We Do When _____ Doesn't Go As Planned?

- A. Keep _____ with God—a huge part of following Jesus is simply staying connected to Him and taking a next step with Him no matter what season of life and what circumstances we are _____ (note [John 15:1-5](#)). Every day hear Jesus say, “_____.” And answer Him, “_____”.
- B. Realize that _____ doesn't mean denial (note [Luke 1:13](#) and [Matthew 7:7-8](#)).
- C. Know the difference between _____ and _____ (note [Luke 1:20b](#)) - whether we like to admit it or not, our timeline for how life should unfold doesn't _____ with God's plans and purposes as much as we'd like to think it does (note [Isaiah 55:8](#))...she trusted God's plan instead of _____ in bitterness and she experienced great joy (note [Luke 1:24-25](#) and [Luke 1:57-66](#)).

God wants our holidays to be filled with His light.

- Will resentment and bitterness _____ you into Christmas and 2021...
- ...or will you let God do a _____ in your heart and mind to trust His plan even when life doesn't go as we hoped...?

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey! Let us know, too, and fill out our connect card (digital or in person).



SMALL GROUP
guide on the back



DISCUSSION GUIDE

Icebreaker: What is/was your favorite pet? Tell us a bit about it. If you never had a pet, what do you think would be the best one if you chose today?

1. How many people can you name around the birth of Jesus, without looking at your Bible or reading ahead?
2. After reading [Luke 1:5-7](#), take some time to discuss what we learn about Elizabeth and her circumstances. What can we apply from her example to our lives in 2020?
3. Elizabeth's life hadn't gone as planned, yet she is described as "righteous in God's eyes." [Read John 15:1-5](#). How can we ensure that we're making good daily choices in difficult, or even optimal circumstances?
4. What are some of the habits that keep you connected to Jesus and saying "Yes" to his call to "Follow Me." on a daily basis?
5. None of us like to hear "No", if we're honest. How does Pastor Tom's teaching about "delay doesn't mean denial" and knowing the "difference between no and not yet" encourage you to trust God with what's in front of you tomorrow, or this week? ([Luke 1:13](#), [Matthew 7:7-8](#))
6. Take your time and read [Luke 1:57-66](#). This passage is the culmination of the trust, confidence and faith Elizabeth and Zechariah had in God over the course of 9+ months! What can you celebrate today, and how can these things sustain you through the times of "No" and "Not yet" that lie ahead?
7. Take time to thank God together for His unfailing faithfulness and trustworthiness as you close your time together.

Day One: [Matthew 11](#)

Day Two: [Matthew 12](#)

Day Three: [Matthew 13](#)

Day Four: [Matthew 14](#)

Day Five: [Matthew 15](#)

PERSONAL GUIDE



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- A. Keep walking with God—a huge part of following Jesus is simply staying connected to Him and taking a next step with Him no matter what season of life and what circumstances we are navigating (note [John 15:1-5](#)). Every day hear Jesus say, “Follow Me.” And answer Him, “Yes”.
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