



LESSON 2 // THE NEED FOR CHANGE

Big Idea: Jesus' entrance into the world changed everything—and He brings change to each of our lives as we enter into a relationship with Him. In Christ we discover that eternal, lasting change happens as we believe God's plans are better, prepare for change, give the Lord our full attention and cooperate with His process of change.

Matthew 1:19-25 (NLT) *Joseph, her fiancé, was a good man and did not want to disgrace her publicly, so he decided to break the engagement quietly.²⁰ As he considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. “Joseph, son of David,” the angel said, “do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For the child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit.²¹ And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”²² All of this occurred to fulfill the Lord’s message through his prophet:²³ “Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means ‘God is with us.’”²⁴ When Joseph woke up, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded and took Mary as his wife.²⁵ But he did not have sexual relations with her until her son was born. And Joseph named him Jesus.*

Start Talking:

How well do you respond to the need for change in your life? What does this tell you about yourself?

Start Thinking:

Read Luke 1:26-27. Why is it so important to believe that God's plans are better than ours?

Read Luke 1:38. How do humility, simplicity, availability and responsiveness prepare you well for the changes God wants to make in your life? How do they help you give God your full attention?

Read Matthew 1:19-25. What do you learn from Joseph about cooperating with God's process of change that you can apply in your life?

Start Praying:

We all have areas of our lives that God desires to change. Share something you believe God wants to change in your life so the group can pray with you about this.

Start Doing:

Look for practical opportunities this week to express humility, simplicity and availability in your relationship with the Lord and with others. Don't let pride or busyness detour you along the way!

Pray for wisdom for our church leaders about beginning to meet in person for worship services and ministry opportunities. Also prayerfully consider supporting outreach efforts at Church of the Redeemer. For more information, visit: <https://church-redeemer.org/ministries/outreach/covid-19>.