



Primary Scripture Passages: (Matthew 1:18-25, Luke 1:34, Luke 1:38, Luke 2:1-7 & Matthew 2:1-12)

Opening – Chaos and Stress

[Leader Note: Play Video from Home Alone: Pizza Scene - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iAznxCJa-bw&list=RDIAznxCJa-bw&index=1>]

Can anyone relate to that dinner scene?

Many say this is the most wonderful time of year. We walk through the stores, turn on the radio, and hear songs like “Joy to the World,” “Wonderful Christmastime,” and “It’s the most Wonderful Time of the Year.” But some of us wonder if we’re the only one experiencing chaos and stress.

Christmastime is stressful for many people, and there are all sorts of things that bring stress into our lives. Here’s my list of a few of them:

- Shopping – [\[give a shopping stress anecdote\]](#)
- Preparing – Decorating, sending out Christmas cards, buying gifts, and making food can all produce stress.
- Getting to all the holiday functions - Every workplace has one, every school has one, the church has one, your small group has one, your family has 10 and before you know it, it’s January 1st and you haven’t slept for a month.
- Unexpected – Illnesses, surgeries, unexpected hospital visits, and a loss of a loved one are typically all unexpected during the holiday season.
- Family Complications – We all have at least one bonehead in our families. There’s always one person who says whatever comes to their mind and to them, in the moment, it sounds great, but it doesn’t set so well with everyone else. Some family members intentionally push other peoples’ buttons to get a reaction from them. Then of course, there are the occasional family fights and controversies. After all, you have several different families who now think differently under the same roof with their own thoughts and ideas.

So, who's ready to break out into the chorus of "It's the most Wonderful Time of the Year"? All these stressors can come together like a tornado at this time every year and leave us feeling exhausted when Christmas Day is actually here.

The truth is we are not alone in our chaos and stressful circumstances. Even when we look back at the birth of Jesus we see that the situation and circumstances weren't exactly what we would consider ideal or even comfortable.

However, there are three principles displayed by those involved in the birth of Jesus that gives us a guide for how we are to handle ourselves in the midst of trying and tough circumstances.

1. TRUST IN THE MIDST OF UNCERTAINTY (Matthew 1:18-25, Luke 1:34 & Luke 1:38)

MATTHEW 1:18-25 says ¹⁸ *This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about^[a]: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet^[b] did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus,^[c] because he will save his people from their sins." ²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³ "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"^[d] (which means "God with us"). ²⁴ When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. ²⁵ But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.*

Here we see how uncertainty crept into the situation. Joseph realized that the woman he was engaged to was pregnant, and for us (as humans, like Joseph, looking at this situation) we recognize that the math doesn't add

up. If he wasn't intimate with Mary, then someone else had to be, because that's the only way it works.

So, in Joseph's mind, just like it would in ours, that meant that he wasn't the father and it was time for him to move on.

Imagine the uncertain times Joseph was facing here. Why? How? When?

But we see his godly character on display in that even though he thought he had figured things out, he refused to disgrace Mary publicly. This would have destroyed Mary's name, reputation and family.

Mary is uncertain. In LUKE 1:34 it says, ³⁴ "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

For Joseph, it didn't add up, it didn't make sense, but He did as the Lord's angel had told him. He trusted God in the midst of one of the most uncertain and life altering moments in His life.

Mary also trusted God . We read in LUKE 1:38 – ³⁸ "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

UNCERTAINTY IN OUR LIVES – You and I face uncertain moments throughout our lives. And around the holidays it seems as if those times tend to happen more frequently.

[Leader note: share some personal illustrations (if you have them) of times of uncertainties during the holiday season. Or you can share general uncertainties that most people experience. I shared about having to take our son to the ER on Christmas day and of the loss of a loved one during the season. Make sure you drive home the following points...]

- In those moments, I was reminded that I must trust God in the midst of ALL circumstances, not just the ones I want to trust Him in the midst of.

 download [youth ministry](#)

This preview includes a select number of pages from this resource.

If you like what you see, download the entire resource today!

downloadyouthministry.com