

The Colors of Christmas
Red (Stress)
December 14

Intro Questions:

1. Have you ever taken a detour that ended up being better than your original route? If so, when?
2. What is one “detour” you’ve had in your life that you didn’t plan? Did it turn out to be a blessing or a burden?

Read: Matthew 1:18-23

Reflect:

3. What potential stresses do you observe in this passage? Do you think Mary and Joseph welcomed this news- or were upset by it?
4. How do you think Mary and Joseph’s faith was affected by what happened to them? Do you think their relationship with God was different than before?
5. Have you ever had anything happen that turned your life upside down? What affect did it have on your faith/relationship with God?
6. Jon mentioned 3 detours we are often confronted with in life:
 - A. The Detour of Unexpected News (Luke 1:30-33)
 - B. The Detour of a Strained Relationship (Matthew 1:18-19)
 - C. The Detour of Not Feeling Safe (Matthew 2:13)Which of these have you felt most recently in your life? Are there any you are feeling right now?
7. When Joseph and Mary get the news about their Son, they are told he will be called “Emmanuel”, which means “God with us”.(Matthew 1:23). In what area of your life do you need to feel God’s presence most?
8. Jon gave 7 words at the end of his sermon to represent what we might need from God during this Advent season:
 - A. Comfort
 - B. Wisdom
 - C. Freedom
 - D. Love
 - E. Joy
 - F. Strength
 - G. PeaceWhich of these do you need most right now?

Respond:

9. Are there any stresses that particularly face you this Christmas? How can the group pray for you?