



### **Life Interrupted.**

#### **Summary**

Jesus' birth interrupted the lives of his family, the shepherds, the religious and political leaders, the expectations of the religious and ultimately the future of all mankind. What he brought was a new order, a new Kingdom and a new promise.

God's activity will often interrupt our activity so that we can make his activity a greater priority in our lives. When God's activity interrupts our activity we have a choice of continuing with our way or to drop off everything and make his activity a greater priority.

When Jesus enters our lives, he interrupts them and transforms us. He interrupts our worship, social order, expectations, paths, vocations, faith and futures, and replaces them with new life.

Often Jesus interrupts our lives to rearrange our priorities so that we are more captivated by His presence, His promise, His peace, His hope and His purpose.

#### **Jesus interrupted Growth Group studies:**

<b>Date</b>	<b>JESUS INTERRUPTED</b>	<b>Passage</b>
Dec 3-6	the reputation of Mary and Joseph	Matthew 1:18-21
Dec 10-13	the social order of the leaders	Matthew 2:1-12
Dec 17-20	the paths of the wise men	Matthew 2:12-18

Dec 24-27	the faith of Zachariah	Luke 1:8-25
Dec 31-Jan 3	the peace of Mary	Luke 2:41-52

### **Dec 3-6**

#### **GOD INTERRUPTED the reputation of Mary and Joseph**

**Matthew 1:18-21**

#### **INTERRUPTION**

In this passage Mary and Joseph's plans were to get married and probably have a family. The coming of Jesus was an interruption to their plans of getting reputably married and having a family. Being Jews who had an expectation of women getting married when they were virgins, Joseph found it hard to reconcile this interruption. He wanted to protect his reputation and was considering leaving Mary. However Jesus interrupts his plan of wanting to protect his reputation because there was something bigger to protect.

1. What is something new you noticed in this story?
2. Before Jesus came what was the reputation of Mary and Joseph?
3. How was it changed by Jesus' coming?
4. There are times in our lives when the presence of Jesus has to be a priority over protecting our reputation. Can you think of examples of what this could look like?
5. Share a time God used an interruption to redirect your priorities and change your perspectives.

PRAYER: Is there any area of your life that you want God to reveal himself this Christmas?

### **Dec 10-13**

#### **GOD INTERRUPTED the social order of the leaders**

Read: Matthew 2:1-12

#### **INTERRUPTION**

In this passage Herod is the king and he has his life in order and he is ruling the Jews comfortably. However the coming of Jesus disturbs him because now Jesus is "the King of the Jews" and Herod was not ready to be replaced. So, he wants to find the truth in this and when he finds the truth he wants to eliminate any possibility of being overthrown. He is so comfortable in his chair that he would not let anyone or anything move him even if it means God himself is to move him. He would rather kill innocent children than lose his power, authority and his name.

1. What is something new you noticed in this story?
2. Are there people you know that would do anything to keep their position?
3. What do you think could have been the right response for Herod in hearing about Jesus?

4. There are times in our lives that we can find ourselves clinging to positions and the coming of Jesus can feel like an interruption to the comforts we are experiencing. Can you think of any examples of this could look like?
5. Is there anything you feel like surrendering to Jesus even though you know that giving that up will interrupt the routine of comfort will bring and end to something you enjoy?

PRAYER: Are there people in your life that we need to pray for this Christmas?

### **Dec 17-20**

On their way to finding Jesus the wise men travelled following the star under the direction of King Herod to discover the truth about Jesus in order to report back to him. Upon their arrival their hearts were overjoyed and they were directed in a dream to return a different way, to outwit King Herod. When King Herod learned he had been outwitted he was furious.

#### **GOD INTERRUPTED the paths of the wise men**

Read: Matthew 2:12-18

1. What is something new you noticed in this story?
2. How was the path and plan of the wise men changed by Jesus' coming?
3. There are times in our lives when following God is easier because we have clear direction, other times we have to trust Him. Can you think of an example of a time like this in your life?
4. Share a time God used an interruption to redirect your priorities and change your perspectives.

PRAYER: Is God asking you to trust His direction in any area of your life?

### **Dec 24-27**

#### **GOD INTERRUPTED the faith of Zachariah**

Read: Luke 1:8-25

Despite Zechariah being faithful with serving in his duties as a priest, when the angel appears to him to tell him the miraculous news he has trouble having faith in it. The angel tells him that his wife will bear a son, but he doubts because they are both older in years. In that time there was disgrace associated with not bearing children. But God fulfills His promise to Zechariah and Zechariah's faith is renewed.

1. What is something new you noticed in this story?
2. How would you react if an angel would appear to you?
3. Is there something in your life that God is doing to challenge your faith?

4. Sometimes God gives us opportunities to trust it for something big that would take tremendous faith for it to happen. Do you have an area in your life that requires big faith for God to do something for you?
5. Sometimes God does give us opportunities to trust that he can do something big even when our faith is too small to handle. Is there something in your life that makes your faith feel so small and you want God to do it anyway inspite of your faith?

PRAYER: Share something big you're trusting God to do.

### **Dec 31-Jan 3**

#### **GOD INTERRUPTED the peace of Mary**

#### **INTERRUPTION**

In this passage Mary and Joseph finds themselves looking for Jesus who was missing for three days. They were troubled and upset with him, but his response was questioning; 'didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?'. Mary and Joseph were reminder that Jesus was more than just their Son.

Read: Luke 2:41-52

1. What is something new you noticed in this story?
2. There are times when we get so used to the presence of Jesus that we forget what He can do in our lives. Have you had times when you have lost sight to see Jesus as more than who you are used to?
3. Jesus was missing but he was in the temple asking and answering questions which is where he was meant to be. Are there times in your life when you feel like God is missing and not there for you? How did you react?
4. What are the things that you can be doing in order for you to be aware of God's presence in your daily life?

PRAYER: Commit the things you've declared to be doing to God.