12.12.21
Congratulations, You Are Going to Have a Baby!
Matthew 1:18-25

DIVING DEEPER

1. Read Matthew 1:18-25 and Luke 2:1-20 and write down any insights you glean concerning Jesus' parents, Mary and Joseph:

2. Pastor pointed out that Mary had prepared herself to be used by God and that on the surface, it looked like God chose Mary because of her personal righteousness. Look up the following Scriptures and record why God did not choose Mary because of her personal righteousness:
   - Read Luke 1:28-30 and notice what the Angel said to Mary, "Greetings, O Favored One…for you have found favor with God." The original word traslated "O Favored One" is the same word used in Ephesians 1:6 and translated "grace." Look up Ephesians 1:6 and see if grace is a quality one possesses because of good works or if grace is a quality that is gifted? As you ponder this, reflect on the last phrase of Luke 1:30 "for you have found favor with God."
   - Ephesians 2:8,9
   - Titus 3:4-7
   - I Corinthians 1:26-30
   - I Timothy 1:15-17

3. Read Psalm 9:10; Psalm 28:7; Psalm 62:8; Psalm 145:18; Proverbs 3:5,6; Proverbs 16:1,3,33; Matthew 6:33, John 14:1-6; Romans 8:28, Philippians 4:19, I Peter 5:7; I John 5:14. Use these Scriptures to write out a commitment to the Lord as we end 2021 and start 2022 that this might be the time in your life where you take a major step forward in trusting God with the decisions and circumstances of your life.

Connection Card Next Steps: Memorize Proverbs 16:3
God, I desire to worship You by offering my availability to You by serving You as I finish 2021 and start 2022.
God, I desire to follow what Mary told the servants, "do whatever He tells you." Please help me fulfill this desire by giving me the heart to obey You.