

## WELCOME

### Our Mission is ONE REAL PASSION

1. Each **ONE** Matters
2. Be **REAL**
3. Follow the **PASSION** of Jesus

### Our Goal is to

- Connect you to Jesus
- Connect you to His community for discipleship
- Connect you to your mission and purpose in life

**New to Foothills?** Our mission as a church is to do everything we can to help you grow your faith. If you would like to get to know us a little better or begin or continue your journey of faith, speak to an elder or staff member or **contact Foothills** at **208-853-0011**, or for more information, stop by the **Connection booth in the Atrium**.

**PRAYER REQUESTS:** Fill out a **Connect card** using the QR code on the screen or the actual card on the seat back in front of you. Place your prayer request in the ORANGE offering box in the back of the Sanctuary. You can also send a prayer request using this form: [Prayer Request - Foothills Church](#). The staff and volunteers pray over these weekly.

**Baptism** - One important step in your faith journey is baptism. To learn more about baptism, speak to an elder or staff member or **contact Foothills** at **208-853-0011** and we will send you the teaching on Believers' Baptism.

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## ONGOING/UPCOMING

- **MomCo** - [Foothills Moms Community- MomCo - Foothills Church](#)
- **Small Groups** - [Foothills Church \(churchcenter.com\)](#)
- **KidMin Volunteers needed** – Contact Pastor Steve Botsford at [steve@foothills.org](mailto:steve@foothills.org)
- **MOMENTUM: Find out more here** [Momentum | Foothills Christian Church](#)
- **NEW! CHURCH CENTER App** – Watch sermons live, follow along with the message and take notes, join a group, register for upcoming events, chat with your small group. The app is available in the App Store or Google Play -- search for *Foothills Christian Church*
- **Host the Adsit Family** – [Adsit Home Stays - Foothills Church](#)
- **Cookie Decorating Party** – Dec 6, 6-7pm @ Capital Church, [2760 E Fairview Ave Meridian](#). No experience necessary except **a desire to bless foster kids**. Partnering with **Foster + Heart**. [Sign Up Here](#)
- **Christmas Blessing Tree** – **located in the Atrium**. Help us bless families in the Treasure Valley. Pick a tag or two from the tree in the Atrium, purchase the gift item(s) listed, return your UNWRAPPED gift in a gift bag with the tag attached, and drop it under the Blessing Tree **BEFORE DECEMBER 14**. A beautiful way to share the love of Jesus during the Christmas season!

# Unexpected Christmas – The Couple

Pastor Steve Botsford

How do we deal with all the unexpected things that happen and especially during the holiday season?

The verse that will be the golden thread throughout this message is **Proverbs 16:9 (NLT)**

“We can make our plans, but the Lord determines our steps.”

**When things do not go as planned...**

- We might lose our “cool” or get frustrated
- We get in the mode that everything should work out but one thing after another fails
- Instead of a feeling of accomplishment... we feel defeated and a failure

**When it comes to plans and unexpected things, the Christmas story is the perfect example**

**Think about Mary and Joseph . . .**

- Not married yet... but more than engaged
- Looking forward to their wedding day
- Had dreams of a family and home
- Plans about what life was going to be like

**And then an unexpected visit from an angel!**

**Luke 1:26-38 (NLT)**

*In the sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a village in Galilee, to a virgin named Mary. She was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of King David. Gabriel appeared to her and said, “Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with you!”*

*Confused and disturbed, Mary tried to think what the angel could mean. “Don’t be afraid, Mary,” the angel told her, “for you have found favor with God! You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. And he will reign over Israel forever; his Kingdom will never end!”*

*Mary asked the angel, “But how can this happen? I am a virgin.”*

*The angel replied, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the baby to be born will be holy, and he will be called the Son of God. What's more, your relative Elizabeth has become pregnant in her old age! People used to say she was barren, but she has conceived a son and is now in her sixth month. For the word of God will never fail."*

*Mary responded, "I am the Lord's servant. May everything you have said about me come true." And then the angel left her.*

### **What did this news mean for Mary?**

- Teen pregnancy
- Shunned in the community
- With this news... all the plans she had for her life with Joseph will change
- But her answer was, *"I am the Lord's servant"*
- Mary saw that God was doing something greater than what she had planned

### **Matthew 1:18-25 (NLT) -- Joseph's version**

*This is how Jesus the Messiah was born. His mother, Mary, was engaged to be married to Joseph. But before the marriage took place, while she was still a virgin, she became pregnant through the power of the Holy Spirit. Joseph, to whom she was engaged, was a righteous man and did not want to disgrace her publicly, so he decided to break the engagement quietly.*

*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. And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."*

*All of this occurred to fulfill the Lord's message through his prophet:*

*"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.'"*

*When Joseph woke up, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded and took Mary as his wife. But he did not have sexual relations with her until her son was born. And Joseph named him Jesus.*

- Joseph received unexpected news of Mary's pregnancy
- He didn't want to disgrace her, so he decided to divorce her quietly
- He does the typical guy thing when a tough situation happens...

- No words, just action... *“When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him”*

**It is not about the plans we make or what happens to those plans that really matter. What matters is how we react to those plans not working out.**

**BIG IDEA: Don't focus on how your plans fell apart; focus on what Jesus is doing in place of them!**

**In those moments of interrupted plans... ask this:**

- What is God trying to show me in this time?

**No matter the plans that fell apart... Jesus still has a plan for you**

**Proverb 16:9 (ESV)** – *“The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps.”*

**The Gospel tells us that God can redeem your situation**

**Luke 1:37 (NASB)** – *“For nothing will be impossible with God”*

- Your greatest mess becomes your greatest message
- Your greatest pain becomes your greatest platform
- Your greatest hurt becomes your greatest ministry

**While there may be some unexpected things this Christmas... there is nothing that God has not expected. He knows you and all you have done, and he still wants to have a real relationship with you.**

Mary and Joseph focus on what God is doing in spite of their plans, and with Joseph in particular, he focuses on someone else (Mary)

**Over and over scripture directs us to focus on others**

**Romans 12:9-16 (NLT)** *Don't just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good. 10Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other. 11Never be lazy, but work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically. 12Rejoice in our confident hope. Be patient in trouble, and keep on praying. 13When God's people are in need, be ready to help them. Always be eager to practice hospitality.*

*14 Bless those who persecute you. Don't curse them; pray that God will bless them. 15 Be happy with those who are happy, and weep with those who weep. 16 Live in harmony with each other. Don't be too proud to enjoy the company of ordinary people. And don't think you know it all!*

**The unexpected result of focusing on others is you find purpose!**

**When plans don't go as expected...**

**Romans 5:3-5 (NLT)** *"We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. 4 And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation. 5 And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love."*

**"We can make our plans, but the Lord determines our steps."**

**Proverbs 16:9 (NLT)**

## LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS

Week of 11/30/2025

**CENTRAL THEME:** It is not about the plans we make or what happens to those plans that really matter. What matters is how we react to those plans not working out.

### ICEBREAKER:

1. What are some of the most unexpected things that happened to you around Christmas time? How did you handle it?
2. Share a time when things didn't go as planned and you kind of lost it (maybe not raging but lost your cool, lost hope for the situation, etc.)

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Did you take notes during this weekend's worship service? Please share what you wrote down or remember.
2. Read through **Luke 1:26-38** and **Matthew 1:18-25**. What are the reactions that would be expected? How would you respond to the situation?
3. What is YOUR general response (not others' responses) to things not going as planned?
  - Rate yourself and explain: 0 = you "sit" in the mess of the situation; 10 = you push it aside and move on
  - As a group, discuss the pros and cons of each

4. Read **Romans 5:3-5**. How does the premise of this passage help us in real life?
5. What can you do to remember to rejoice this Christmas season when things don't go as planned?

## Prayer requests

We love to pray for all types of situations (sickness, hospitalization, tough times, etc.). Let's also pray for those who are disconnected from God and for the courage to invite them into our community. Pray Foothills Church remains strong through our transition.

**The Momentum Spiritual Growth Challenge is a primary focus of ours from July 2025 to July 2027. These things help build an unshakable community amongst us.**

- Pray, Wednesdays, 1:16 PM
- 2-year Bible reading plan
- Serve once a month: [Me - Foothills Church](#)
- Join a Foothills Life Group: [Me - Foothills Church](#)
- Invite one person a quarter to attend Church
- Give financially above and beyond regular tithes and offerings.

**Close in prayer:** Keep that empty chair in the circle to remind us that we can reach one more. Pray for the chair to be filled with a person who crosses one of our lines of sight or is in our circles of influence.

**Each ONE matters . . . Be REAL . . . Follow the PASSION of Jesus**