

# WHEN GOD STEPS IN

## Christ in Our Reversals

- Matthew 1:18-21 NLT

<sup>22</sup>All of this occurred to fulfill the Lord's message through his prophet:

<sup>23</sup>"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.'"

<sup>24</sup>When Joseph woke up, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded and took Mary as his wife. <sup>25</sup>But he did not have sexual relations with her until her son was born. And Joseph named him Jesus. (Matthew 1:22-25 NLT)

### Joseph's not-so-merry Christmas . . .

- **Joseph's dilemma:** What to \_do\_ with \_Mary\_?

<sup>19</sup>Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. (Matthew 1:19)

- **Joseph's dislocation:** Where do I \_go\_ \_now\_?

In spite of what he could not control,  
Joseph kept his \_ear\_ open to the \_Spirit\_.

### Four ways that God walks us through life's reversals . . .

#### 1. \_Instruction\_

<sup>20</sup>Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife . . . (Matthew 1:20)

## 2. Insight

<sup>20</sup>... because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins. (Matthew 1:20b, 21)

<sup>28</sup>And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. <sup>29</sup>For those God foreknew he also predestined to be **conformed to the image of his Son**, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. (Romans 8:28,29)

## 3. Warning

<sup>13</sup>When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up," he said, "take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him." (Matthew 2:13)

<sup>13</sup>No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it. (1 Corinthians 10:13)

## 4. Timing

<sup>19</sup>After Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt <sup>20</sup>and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who were trying to take the child's life are dead." (Matthew 2:19-20)

<sup>22</sup>All of this occurred to fulfill the Lord's message through his prophet: <sup>23</sup>"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.**'" (Matthew 1:22,23 NLT)