



WEEK 2

SIGNS OF HIS PRESENCE

Pastor Harry Kuehl

Dec 30 & 31, 2017

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Of all the Christmas gifts that you received this year, which one is your favorite? Why? How do you think you will feel about it a month from now? Six months? A year?

2. What were some distinct signs of the presence of God in your life or someone else's in 2017? How hard (or easy) is it to pick up on God's active presence? Why do you think that is the case?

3. Read Matthew 1:18-23. What kind of person do you imagine Joseph was? Was he also chosen by God? What do you think God was looking for in the human father Jesus would have?

4. Pastor Harry described that the time between Joseph finding out Mary was pregnant and the moment the angel visited him as a time of chaos. What were the ramifications of their situation, culturally?

What did Joseph fear in taking Mary as his wife? Why do you think God waited to send the angel to Joseph?

5. Can you relate? Has there been a time in your life when it seemed like your entire world was upside down and God was nowhere inside that chaos? Or maybe He showed up days or weeks or months later than you thought He would? What did you do?

Where was God during the time? What have you learned about God during times of waiting?

6. What is the opposite of chaos, in your opinion?

7. Brother Lawrence in his timeless classic, *The Practice of the Presence of God*, wrote: “We ought not to be weary of doing little things for the love of God, who regards not the greatness of the work, but the love with which it is performed.” How does our love for God enable us to keep moving, keep trusting, keep joyful in times of uncertainty? What does love for God enable us to do? Make a list.

8. Pastor Harry shared that the signs that God is with us are the same signs that assured Joseph that God was with him. What did Pastor Harry mean?

MEMORIZE Psalm 23:4 – “Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.”

MEDITATE: Where are you spiritually today compared with January 2017? The same place? Stronger in your faith? Weaker? Where would you like to be in terms of your relationship with God this time next year? How will you better practice the presence of God in 2018? Think about it, and then create an action step to get you moving toward your goal. Consider starting with your prayer life. How will you engage in prayer at a deeper level in this new year?