

## THE STORY YOU NEVER HEARD

### PRECEPT

#### Hebrews 5:8-9

<sup>8</sup> Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered <sup>9</sup> and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him

### PROMISE

Joseph accepted Mary and Jesus as his family; he shielded Mary's honor without complaint. He provided for his family despite financial hardships and remained faithful to God despite difficult circumstances. Joseph's obedience led to protecting and providing for Mary and Jesus. God provided them with Gold, frankincense, and myrrh to escape to Egypt at the proper time. While Mary accepted the responsibility of bearing Jesus, she took the risks of getting stoned and divorced. She was constantly judged and shamed by her community, but humbly trusted God's will rather than her own. Mary's obedience led the way for our Savior to be born into this world and save all people from their sins. And Jesus, born in a poor and humble family, obeyed and loved his imperfect family. He faced shame, poverty, fatherlessness & hardships, yet He perfectly obeyed despite imperfect circumstances. Jesus' obedience caused us to be redeemed from our sins, experience peace and restoration, and be an example of how we can live our lives. humble and obedient. Jesus, being fully God, was also fully human. He gets tired, hungry, feels fear, and has anxious thoughts. He knows what it's like to lose a loved one, work tiring jobs to provide for his household, experience shame, rejection, and betrayal from people around him. He had to obey imperfect parents and get along with imperfect people. Yet he did all of this out of love, love to the father, and love for his creation. Obedience is learned through hardships, and perfect obedience doesn't require perfect circumstances. Obedience is paired with blessings.

### PRACTICE

- 1. Story.** Why was it important for Jesus to become a human to fulfill God's plan for salvation?
- 2. Understanding Christmas.** How does obedience (or disobedience) affect your relationships with God? And how can we pray/encourage you regarding this?

### PRAYER

#### I. Peace

- Pray for God's peace to fill our hearts, our homes, our communities, and our world.

#### II. Community

- Pray for our community to know Christ fully and deeply and study His Word daily.

#### III. Leaders

- May God grant them wisdom, strength, and discernment as they guide His people.

#### IV. Members

- Pray for the spiritual maturity and the growth of our attendees.

#### V. Disciples

- Let us pray for more disciples and disciplers to teach others to obey God's commands.

#### VI. Pastors

- May God's favour rest upon them and may He establish the work of their hands always.

#### VII. Marriages

- May God guide them and strengthen their commitment to one another.