



GROUPS

at 12STONE

12.18.2022 Conversation Guide

How To Slow Down In A Fast World

How do you build merry & bright relationships in a messy & broke world? The story of the first Christmas shows people dealing with this very question. When Joseph finds out that his betrothed Mary is pregnant—by the Holy Spirit, not by Joseph—he almost walks away from their relationship. Because things seem messy and broke in the moment, he almost abandons a merry and bright future. However, he slowed down and *listened* to God. What can this teach us about all our relationships?

Key Scripture | Matthew 1:18-21

This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. 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.

But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 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.”

- Related Scriptures | Matthew 1:18-21, 24; James 1:19; Proverbs 18:13; James 2:14-17

Icebreakers:

Q: Are you a slow lane or fast lane driver?

Discussion Questions:

I. Merry and bright relationships slow down to hear and be heard

Q: You cannot listen quickly. Listening demands that we slow down. Has someone else impacted you by slowing down to listen to you?

Q: Are you moving too quickly to truly listen to those around you?

II. Merry and bright relationships slow down to love and serve

Q: Have you experienced the benefit of someone else's decision to slow down and serve you?

Q: How did Jesus slow down to hear, be heard, love, and serve?

Get Practical:

Slow down. Genuine listening rarely happens when we're in a hurry. Likewise, when we're rushed, we miss opportunities to love and serve. Make a practice of intentionally slowing down and observing where you can start listening and loving better.

Resources (click the links below to access)

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<https://12stone.com/volunteer/>

