

## The Journey We Didn't Choose

### Group Study Questions

#### Opening Question:

- What's the most unexpected journey or detour you've experienced in life? How did you handle it?

#### General Observation:

- What stood out to you most from the sermon about Mary and Joseph's unexpected journey?
- How does the pastor compare our modern Christmas preparations to Mary and Joseph's situation?

#### Understanding the Message:

- The pastor says, "Expect the unexpected." How does this relate to the Christmas story?
- What does the sermon suggest about God's timing versus our own plans?
- How does the pastor explain the idea that "chaos, not comfort, builds character"?

#### Personal Application:

- When have you found yourself on a journey you didn't choose? How did you respond?
- The sermon mentions doing "what you know to do when you don't know what to do." What does this look like in your life?
- How do you typically respond to unexpected changes or challenges? Do you tend to react with faith or fear?
- In what areas of your life might God be calling you out of your comfort zone to build character?

#### Action Steps:

- This week, identify one area where you need to trust God's timing. What practical step can you take to demonstrate faith in that situation?
- The sermon challenges us to examine where we're demonstrating faith. Choose one area this week where you can step out in faith instead of succumbing to fear.
- Practice finding joy in a difficult circumstance this week. How can you intentionally shift your perspective?

#### Sample Prayer:

"Heavenly Father, thank you for the example of Mary and Joseph's faith in the face of unexpected circumstances. Help us to trust Your timing and purposes, even when life takes unexpected turns. Give us the courage to step out in faith rather than shrinking back in fear. Teach us to find joy in all circumstances, knowing that You are working to build our character and draw us closer to You. Guide us as we seek to do what we know is right, even when we don't understand the full picture. In Jesus' name, Amen."