

**Not What I Expected
Broken Halos – Part 2
December 7-8, 2019
Dr. Jeffrey Allen Love**

Faith: believing that God is who He says that He is and can and will do what He promised to do.

- **God Is With Me.**

“And because Joseph was a descendant of King David, he had to go to Bethlehem in Judea, David's ancient home. He traveled there from the village of Nazareth in Galilee. He took with him Mary, to whom he was engaged, who was now expecting a child.”

Luke 2:4-5 (p.781)

When I trust and obey God and things are not what I expect:

- 1. Intentionally recognize He is with me.**

“And while they were there, the time came for her baby to be born. She gave birth to her first-born son. She wrapped him snugly in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no lodging available for them.”

Luke 2:6-7 (p.781)

- 2. Intentionally recognize He is good.**

“This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin. So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most.”

Hebrews 4:15-16 (p.922)

“My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?”

Matthew 27:46 (p.760)

Next Step:

_____ Today I'm choosing to trust and obey God for the first time in my life.

_____ I trust and obey God. Today I'm choosing to intentionally recognize He is with me and He is good.

Life Groups Study Questions

Taking the Talk to Another Level

From the Weekend Talk of December 7-8, 2019

Broken Halos, Week 2: Not What I Expected

Life Groups use these questions to dig deeper into what we talked about this weekend. Dig into them so you will be ready for the discussion at your Life Group. Find out more about Life Groups at the Info Center in the lobby or go to alivechurch.com/groups.

Car Questions/Conversation Starters

- Talk about a long trip you remember taking with your family (or by yourself). What made it memorable?
- What expectations for the holidays did you grow up with?
- What expectations for the holidays do you have now?
- How do you typically react when things don't go as expected?

Quick Review

- Looking back at your Talk Notes, was there anything you heard in the service that stood out or maybe even confused you?

Discussion Starters from the Weekend Talk

Refer to the Talk Notes and related Bible verses from this Weekend's Talk.

- Pastor Jeff highlighted *One Thing* to remember from this week's Talk: **"God is *With Me*."**
 - Have you ever felt alone? What do you do when you feel this way?
- Read Luke 2:1-7 (p.781*).
- Jeff talked about the reality of facing times when you trust and obey God, but things don't work out as you would have expected.
 - What are some challenges Mary and Joseph might have faced as they travelled to Bethlehem? What would you be thinking if you were in their shoes?
 - When have you felt like you did what you were supposed to do, yet things still didn't go as you expected? What happened next? What did you learn?
- Jeff spoke of a couple of things to do when things don't go as expected...
 1. **Intentionally recognize He is with me.**
 - When do you feel closest to God? When have you felt the most distant from God?
 - Why is it significant to know God is with you? Isn't it enough to know He exists? What difference does it make if He is WITH you?
 2. **Intentionally recognize He is good** (Hebrews 4:15-16) (p.922*).*
 - What about this passage tells you God is good?
 - Jeff related several examples of how many perceive God. What are some common misconceptions about God that are destroyed by the truth of this passage?
 - How do you relate to the words of Jesus in Matthew 27:46?

Digging Deeper

Take a look at this week's Advent readings (alivechurch.com/advent).

- This second week of advent highlights Peace. (Note: Day 7 of the readings includes a great description of Peace.)
- What is the difference between true peace and just the absence of conflict?
- Read John 16:33 (p.825*), Colossians 3:12-15 (903*), Galatians 5:22-23 (p.893*), Philippians 4:7 (p.901*), and Psalm 29:11 (p.426*).
 - What do these verses say about peace? How can these truths help and teach you today? Why do we value peace?

Taking It Home: Next Step

- **My Next Step:** This week we have TWO options for a Next Step. Which did you choose?
 - *Today I'm choosing to trust and obey God for the first time in my life.*
 - *I trust and obey God. Today I'm choosing to intentionally recognize He is with me and He is good.*

Pray

- Pray now for one another, the Church, and Alive Church.

- (Note: Have you walked the new Prayer Path on the campus? Check it out!)

This Weekend:

We continue our Series, “*Broken Halos*,” as we focus on how God uses ordinary people to do extraordinary things.

Be sure you check out our ***Vision Runways Christmas Offering*** brochure for your opportunities to see God transform lives through the people and ministries of Alive Church.

All of these notes are also in our App. To get our FREE App just text “ALIVEAZ APP” to this number: 77977 and follow the instructions. If you need help, we’ll help you!

Go to alivechurch.com/advent to do the 24 day reading.

* The Life Transformation Bible is the New Living Translation of the Bible, including many useful tools to help you better understand God’s Word, including our own Alive Church Life Transformation Discipleship Plan. They are available FREE in the church lobby.