

CrossWalk **notes**

Grinchmas to Christmas

Navigating Family Expectations

December 4, 2022 / Chris Johnson

How do we navigate family expectations?

¹⁸ 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. ¹⁹ 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.

Matthew 1:18-19, NIV

Every family experiences _____.

We have a _____ in how we respond. Will I be a _____, a _____ or a _____?

³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? ³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. **Romans 8:35, 37, NIV**

²⁰ 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. ²¹ 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."

Matthew 1:20-21, NIV

When our expectations are met with _____, God loves us enough to tell us that we don't just need a _____ to our problems, we need _____ from our sins through Jesus.

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²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Romans 6:23, NIV**

²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³ "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us"). ²⁴ When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. ²⁵ But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

Matthew 1:22-25, NIV

Here's what we can expect:

- 1) God is _____ in keeping His promises.
- 2) Jesus is _____ us in the middle of our challenges.
- 3) God will _____ us as we _____ Him and _____ our family.

MEMORY VERSE

²¹ 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."

Matthew 1:21, NIV

My next step: I will repent of my victim mentality and my villain moments and trust that by faith in Jesus, I am a victor. I will seek to love my family as Jesus first loved me.

What's your next step?

Mark it on your communication card.