Reflection/Discussion Questions

Sermon: All Alone: When Hope Unravels

Series: Heart-Pounding Christmas #2

Bible Text: Matthew 1:18-25

Date: December 7, 2025

Speaker: Pastor Mike Kleven

FBC Falun

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1. Share a time when you felt "heart-pounding loneliness" like Joseph—perhaps during the holidays. How did it affect your sense of trust in relationships or God?

2. In Matthew 1:18-19, Joseph faces shock, confusion, and betrayal. How does this mirror our own experiences of broken trust, and what does it teach about human separation from God since Genesis 3?

3. Discuss Joseph's "heart-pounding decision" (Matt. 1:19). How do we balance upholding principles with showing compassion in tough situations? Share examples from your life.

4. Joseph chose mercy over strict adherence to the law in his decision about Mary (Matt. 1:19). How might this example guide us in responding to perceived betrayals in our own lives, and what role does God's grace play in healing fractured relationships?

5. The angel tells Joseph, "Do not be afraid" (Matt. 1:20). What fears hold you back from embracing God's mission? How can Jesus as Immanuel change isolation into belonging?

6. The angel's message highlights Jesus as the one who saves from sins and brings God's presence (Matt. 1:21-23). In what ways has experiencing "Immanuel—God with us" transformed a season of isolation into one of purpose for you? Share a personal testimony or observation.

7. Review the application steps: Acknowledge the ache, listen and obey, serve the lonely. Which one challenges you most this Christmas? Brainstorm practical ways to reach out to someone isolated.

8. The sermon challenges us to serve the lonely as a way to combat our own isolation. How can you practically implement this—perhaps through community outreach or holiday invitations—and what biblical promises can encourage us when facing potential rejection?

9. How does the Christmas story's "messy" reality—not sanitized—offer hope amid loneliness? What does it mean for Jesus to enter our raw stories?