

Text: Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:18-25

Ahaz – A Picture of Unbelief

- Ahaz's situation is critical
- Using _____ to devise _____
- Unbelief has _____

Joseph – A Picture of Faith

- Joseph's trouble
- Use wisdom to devise a plan but remain _____

Advent Lessons

- Human fear and urgency often lead to _____
- God is always _____ and at _____
- God's actions are aimed at rescuing people from a _____

Life Enrichment

What about today's sermon challenged, disturbed, or encouraged you?

- Why do you think most Americans view God as a problem solver Whose main objective is making their lives easier? How do you think that impacts the way people worship, serve, give, and witness?
- What is God's primary role in the universe? How does that differ from being our problem solver? How is it the same?
- What role does fear play in our unbelief? How is unbelief demonstrated?
- Was it wrong for Ahaz to have a plan (Isaiah 7)? Why, or why not?
- What are some consequences of unbelief?
- How does Joseph's trial compare with Ahaz's trial? Which one had more to lose?
- Why do you think Joseph obeys so eagerly?
- Why do fear and urgency/panic usually lead to poor decisions? How can Christians respond differently to stressful situations?
- How was Joseph's faith demonstrated? What does this teach us about the nature of faith?