**A Daring Faith**

1. **Scripture Lesson**

Matthew 1:18-25 (ESV)

**18**Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. **19**And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. **20**But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. **21**She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” **22**All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: **23**“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us). **24**When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, **25**but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

1. **Introduction**

“Faith is a living, daring confidence in God’s grace, so sure and certain that a man could stake his life on it a thousand times.”

- Martin Luther

Exodus 3:10-12

**10**Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt.” **11**But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?” **12**He said, “But I will be with you, and this shall be the sign for you, that I have sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain.”

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1. **Big Idea**

**God sustains His radical calling to faith in our lives through His extraordinary presence and promises.**

1. **The Crisis of Faith**

“If we teach people that the gospel is *'God has a great plan for your life. Raise your hand if you want a piece of that action,'* we invite people into a crisis of faith when their life is anything *but* great. Whereas the actual gospel offers tremendous hope and strength when all hell is breaking loose and nothing is great about our life.”

- Michael Horton

“Christian faith does not come with a force-field…*'Christ suffered so we don't have to'*is trite, bumper sticker with bad theology…But the God of the bible does not exist for us - we exist for Him. Christ did not suffer so that in this life we would not suffer. Christ suffered on the cross to receive God's judgment and wrath so that we could receive God's mercy and grace.”

- Paul Dunk

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1. **The Basis for Faith**

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1. **Conclusion**

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