

mary's CHRISTMAS

Sunday, December 11, 2022 | Wawasee Bible | Milford, Indiana | Pastor Josh Weiland

Part 3 | All Aboard the Struggle Bus!

Luke 2:21-40; Matthew 2:1-23

OBEDIENCE and faithfulness to God (Luke 2:21-24ff)

Jesus

Mary & Joseph

Parents: YOUR obedience will affect your kids' obedience!

will bring **STRUGGLE** in our broken world (v. 41-45)

Mary's (and your) common struggles

Mary's (and your) unique struggles

🤔 Does God allow more than you can handle? (Yes...) Matthew 11:30; Galatians 6:2, 5

so keep your eyes on **ETERNITY!**

these days are momentary 2 Corinthians 4:17-18; Ecclesiastes 3:11

keep going! Hebrews 12:1-2; 2 Corinthians 4:1; John 16:33

youareloved.church



Are you getting the daily Advent Devotional?

Text "ADVENT" to
833-271-8805
to sign up.

You'll start getting a daily scripture to read and a brief devotional thought each day at 8:00a through Christmas morning.

You can also text this number anytime for info or prayer. Just say, "Pray for..." followed by your request.

Or if you just need someone to talk to, start texting us with whatever's going on and someone will be in touch via text.



Study Guide

Questions & Scripture for Further Study

What is this? – Each week people from Wawasee Bible meet in small groups in various homes to learn about Jesus, pray, eat, laugh, & live life together. **We call them Life Groups.** The questions here are based on the sermon each week (often a related part of Scripture), and guide each group's study. If you're interested in connecting with a Life Group, let us know on a Connect Card or at the Connect Desk!

Welcome to Life Group!

NOTE: This will be our last Life Group Study Guide for the Fall 2022 Semester. We'll still have some Food For Thought questions in the coming weeks as we ramp up to our Spring 2023 Session. Sign-ups will begin in January.

Share with the Group:

We all have struggles. And the Holiday season (along with weddings & funerals) is when they seem to rear up the most. Do you have any struggles that have crept up this season? You're encouraged to share them with your group. You don't have to endure it all alone!

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time, that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

Digging Deeper – A Bible Study

Use this guide for further personal and group study this week. For the most impact in your life and in your group, *work through it on your own before you gather with your Life Group.* If your Life Group isn't gathering this week, use this guide for further study personally.

1. This week we saw that Mary's obedience to God resulted in some struggles. At times she may have even wondered where God was in the midst of it all. Choosing to not "squirm out" and short circuit the growth process our struggles fuel can be no small challenge, especially when it seems like God is waiting at the other end, but not doing anything now to help the situation. How can the following verses help you stick with it and affirm God is more involved than you realize?

As you study the passages below (or in your Bible), mark them up!

- Circle or highlight any words or phrases that catch your attention.
- Underline what you think is important to remember.
- Put an X next to anything that confuses you.

⁴⁰ I will make with them an everlasting covenant, that I will not turn away from doing good to them. And I will put the fear of me in their hearts, that they may not turn from me. ⁴¹ I will rejoice in doing them good, and I will plant them in this land in faithfulness, with all my heart and all my soul.

JEREMIAH 32:40-41 (ESV)

²⁷ My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹ My Father, who has given them to

(Study Guide continues on back panel...)

Welcome to Wawasee!

OUR MISSION

We are sent to love people and invite them to follow Jesus with us.

YOUR PATHWAY

If you call Wawasee Bible "home", we challenge you to pursue **three things**:

1. Gather



Show up *regularly* and gather with us for worship.

2. Grow



Don't just show up, *grow up* spiritually and connect in a growth ministry like Life Groups.

3. Go!



Go and serve somewhere. Contribute as much *or more* than you consume!

Word Find in the Word

Find the words from a passage related to this week's message.

Word Find for 2 Corinthians 1:3-7 (CSB)

Find the words **bolded** below.

³ **Blessed** be the God and **Father** of our **Lord Jesus Christ**, the **Father** of **mercies** and the God of all **comfort**. ⁴ He **comforts** us in all our **affliction**, so that we may be **able** to **comfort** those who are in any **kind** of **affliction**, through the **comfort** we ourselves **receive** from God. ⁵ For **just** as the sufferings of **Christ overflow** to us, so **also** through **Christ** our **comfort overflows**. ⁶ If we are **afflicted**, it is for your **comfort** and **salvation**. If we are **comforted**, it is for your **comfort**, which **produces** in you **patient endurance** of the **same** sufferings that we suffer. ⁷ And our **hope** for you is **firm**, **because** we **know** that as you **share** in the sufferings, so you will **also share** in the **comfort**.

H O J E S U S A M E K A
O P C C R P A A U M R J
P E H R E C E I V E O U
E P R O D U C E S R V S
J A I O U T L N N C E T
B T S H A R E D F I R M
B I T B E C A U S E F K
B E C O M F O R T S L I
A N F S A L V A T I O N
L T P H P T K N O W W D
S L A F F L I C T E D C
O A B L E S S E D R C R
L O R D L F A T H E R F

life groups Study Guide (continued)

me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. ³⁰ I and the Father are one." **JOHN 10:27-30** (ESV)

¹⁵ "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, ¹⁷ even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. **JOHN 14:15-17** (ESV)

⁶ And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. **PHILIPPIANS 1:6** (ESV)

- When we stick it out and make it through one of life's challenges, we still might not have any idea how God worked and may even wonder if it was worth things doing God's way. How does **Hebrews 6:10-12** help you avoid falling into this kind of thinking?
- Asking God for wisdom and applying it is foundational to God growing us. It also allows us to be authentic as to what's going on while still navigating through the situation in the way God has called us to. As you read the following verses what do you learn about how to gain wisdom, along with its benefits?

- Proverbs 1:7** _____
- Proverbs 11:2** _____
- Proverbs 13:10** _____
- Proverbs 14:8** _____
- Proverbs 19:11** _____

Which of these Proverbs about wisdom would be the best one for you to read every day for the next week?

Prayer

As you close, take time to pray for each other. **Divide into separate groups of men and women** and pray for one another.

This week's Study Guide is adapted from a study by North Coast Church in Vista, CA. North Coast is a sister church of Wawasee Bible and part of the EFCA.



Wawasee Bible is part of the Evangelical Free Church of America. View our Statement of Faith online at wawaseebible.com/beliefs. Learn more about the EFCA at efca.org.

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LUKE 2:21-40; MATTHEW 2:1-23



We're Glad You're Here Today!
Please register your attendance on our **digital Connect Card** by scanning the QR code with your phone's camera, or by visiting **wawasee.today** in your web browser. Update your contact info, share prayer requests, or just let us know how we can serve you! **You can also access today's bulletin** using the same QR or link.