

Don't forget to stay connected during the week!

Would you like to serve and see what God can do IN you and THROUGH you? We would like to talk to you. Let us know through your connection card or in person with one of our leaders..

A big part of our church's DNA is going out to serve to those in need, so we want to invite you to link arms with us as we serve our community. Stay tune for our next community service events.

♣ Join us for our Christmas Service on Monday, December 22 at 6:30 PM at Iglesia Playas; a special night of worship and celebration with gift-giving for the children of our church during the service. →

Remember that the Wednesday WOW service and the Tuesday youth group will be on pause for the rest of the year.

Notice: On the last Sunday of the year, December 28, we will not have an in-person service. That day we will gather on our online platforms, through Facebook and YouTube. See you there!









INTEGRITY IN THE DARK: WHEN WAITING BECOMES WORSHIP"

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

Matthew 1:18-25 (NIV)

- WAITING isn't WASTED when God is working in the dark.
- **INTEGRITY** protects **OTHERS** even when waiting hurts you.
- Waiting doesn't just test your <u>PATIENCE</u>, it tests your <u>CHARACTER</u>.
- Waiting becomes <u>WORSHIP</u> when <u>OBEDIENCE</u> becomes immediate.

"...they offered a sacrifice... a pair of doves or two pigeons."

Luke 2:22-24 (NIV)

 Waiting with integrity is <u>LONG-TERM</u> faithfulness, not <u>SHORT-TERM</u> emotion.

"Those who WAIT on the Lord shall RENEW their strength..."

Isaiah 40:31 (NIV)

• When you wait with **INTEGRITY**, God renews your **STRENGTH**.

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. Where in your life are you currently in a "waiting season," and what emotions come up when you think about that area?
- 2. Joseph protected Mary's dignity even while he was hurting. What does protecting others look like in your own waiting season?
- 3. What is one area where God is asking you to obey, even though the timing, details, or outcome are unclear?
- 4. Waiting often reveals what we truly trust. What has your waiting season revealed about your trust in God?
- 5. Isaiah 40:31 says strength comes from waiting on the Lord. What would it look like for you to "wait well" this week?



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