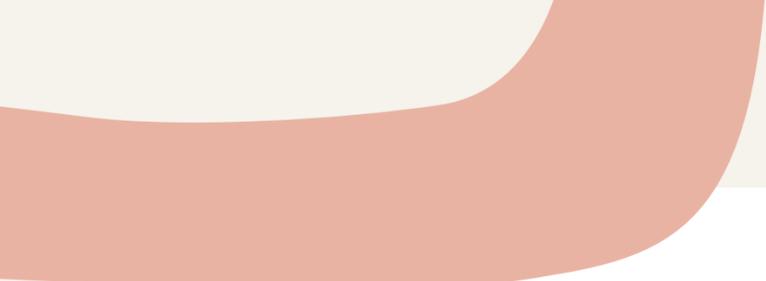


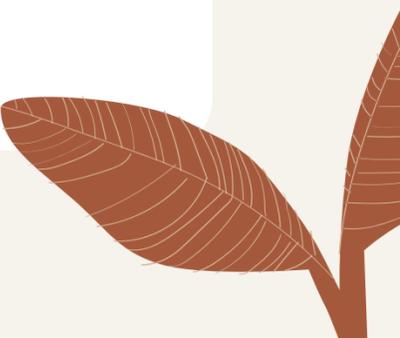
LESSON TITLE:

Joseph Of Nazareth

THE GOD OF INCREASE



December Sermon Series: The Characters of Christmas



LIFE LESSONS:

Joseph Of Nazareth

THE GOD OF INCREASE



“God is preparing you for
greater things.”

Scripture Lesson:

Matthew 1:18-25

Matthew 1:18-25 , The birth of Jesus took place like this. His mother, *Mary*, was engaged to be married to Joseph. Before they enjoyed their wedding night, Joseph discovered she was pregnant. (It was by the Holy Spirit, but he didn't know that.) Joseph, chagrined but noble, determined to take care of things quietly so *Mary* would not be disgraced. While he was trying to figure a way out, he had a dream.

God's angel spoke in the dream:



“Joseph, son of David, don’t hesitate to get married. Mary’s pregnancy is Spirit-conceived. God’s Holy Spirit has made her pregnant. She will bring a son to birth, and when she does, you, Joseph, will name him Jesus— ‘God saves’—because he will save his people from their sins.”



This would bring the prophet's embryonic revelation to full term: Watch for this—a virgin will get pregnant and bear a son; They will name him Immanuel (Hebrew for “God is with us”). Then Joseph woke up. He did exactly what God's angel commanded in the dream: He married Mary. But he did not consummate the marriage until she had the baby. He named the baby Jesus.

Scripture Lesson:
Matthew 2:13-15



Matthew 2:13-15, After the scholars were gone, God's angel showed up again in Joseph's dream and commanded, "Get up. Take the child and his mother and flee to Egypt. Stay until further notice. Herod is on the hunt for this child and wants to kill him." Joseph obeyed. He got up, took the child and his mother under cover of darkness. They were out of town and well on their way by daylight. They lived in Egypt until Herod's death. This Egyptian exile fulfilled what Hosea had preached:

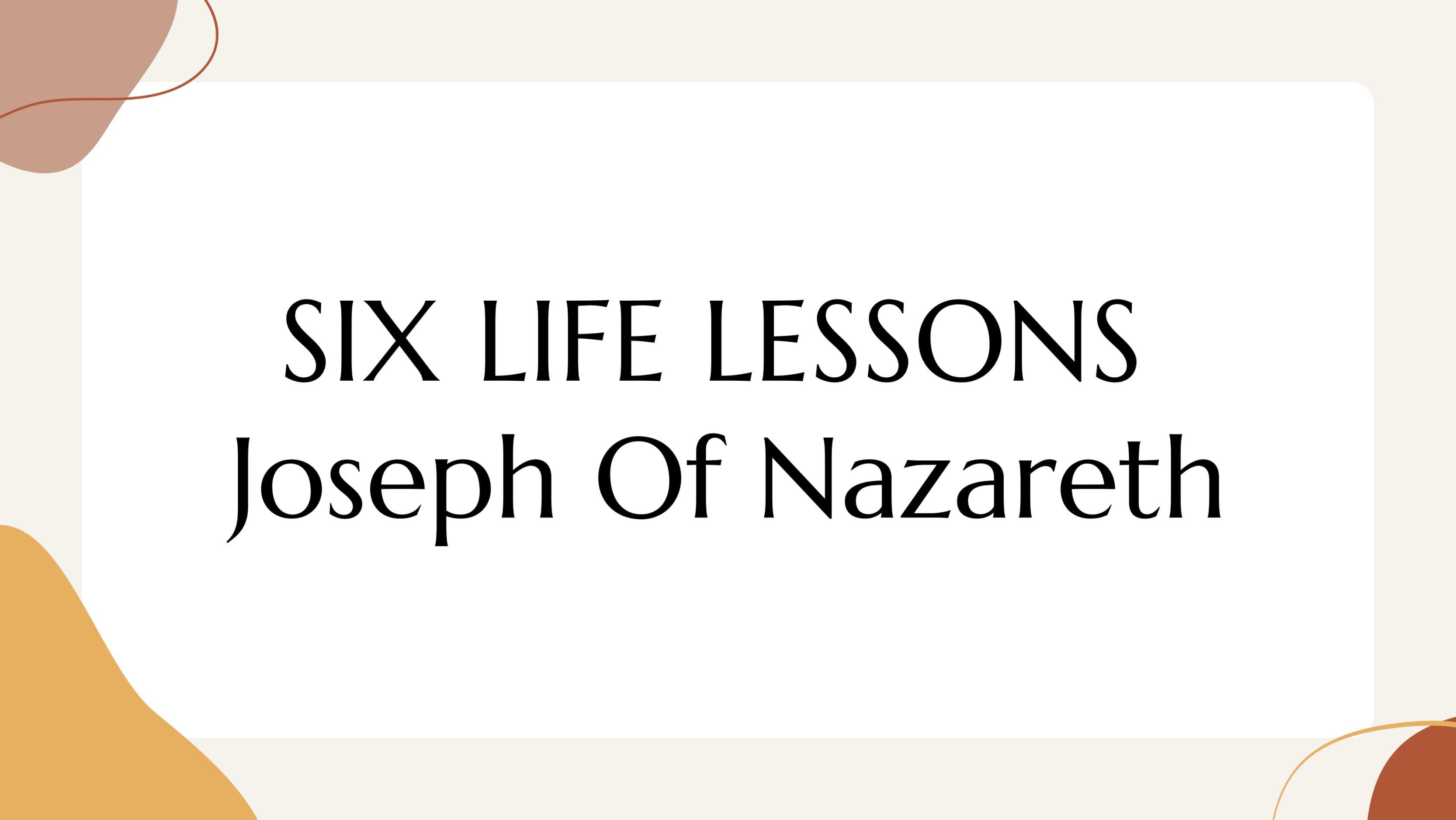
"I called my son out of Egypt."

Scripture Lesson:
Matthew 2:19-23



Matthew 2:19-23, When Herod died, God's angel appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt: "Up, take the child and his mother and return to Israel. All those out to murder the child are dead." Joseph obeyed. He got up, took the child and his mother, and reentered Israel. When he heard, though, that Archelaus had succeeded his father, Herod, as king in Judea, he was afraid to go there. But then Joseph was directed in a dream to go to the hills of Galilee. On arrival, he settled in the village of Nazareth. This move was a fulfillment of the prophetic words, "He shall be called a Nazarene."

God has a habit of
disrupting our lives.



SIX LIFE LESSONS

Joseph Of Nazareth



1. Joseph was a *Man of*
CONVICTION.





“Conviction is a tap on your heart by the Holy Spirit. He’s just trying to get your attention to help guide you in the right direction.”



“Never for the sake of peace
and quiet deny your
convictions.”



1 Corinthians 16:13, Be on guard.
Stand firm in the faith. Be
courageous. Be strong.



2. Joseph was a *Man of*
COMPASSION.





“The strength of a man isn’t
seen in the width of his
shoulders. It’s seen in the width
of his arms that circle you.”



Colossians 3:12, Therefore, as God's
chosen people, holy and dearly loved,
clothe yourselves with compassion,
kindness, humility, gentleness and
patience.



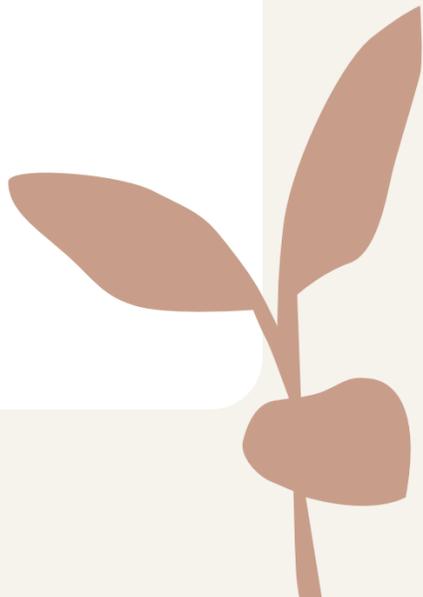
3. Joseph was a Man of
COMMUNION.





"All my weak days have a common cause- I have neglected communion with God through my neglect of Scriptures and prayer. When will I learn.

Mark 4:9, He who has ears
to hear, let Him hear.





"The voice you believe will
determine the future you
experience."



4. Joseph was a *Man of*
CLARITY.





Proverbs 4:18, The path of the
righteous is like the morning
sun, shining ever brighter till
the full light of day.



“Dear God, remove all
confusion from my life. Make
room for your divine clarity.
Amen.”



5. Joseph was a *Man of*
COMMITMENT.





“Most people fail not because of lack of desire, but because of lack of commitment.”



6. Joseph was a *Man of*
COURAGE.





“Courage is simply the
willingness to be afraid and
act anyway.”



Joshua 1:9, Have I not
commanded you? Be strong and
courageous. Do not be
frightened, and do not be
dismayed, for the Lord your God
is with you wherever you go.

“If God sends us on strong paths, we are provided strong shoes.”



Joseph's name in Hebrew means
“The LORD increases, doubler,
God will add.”



God does not allow
Himself to be outdone in
generosity.

