

Broken Halos “How Can This Be?”- Jim Burgen

December 2-3, 2017

Community:

1. With the Christmas season upon us, what are your plans this year?
2. What is your favorite Christmas memory, and why?

Core:

1. When you think (or read) about people in the Bible, do you ever have a hard time picturing them as real people—like us today—and do you have a hard time putting yourself in their shoes? If so, why is it so hard to relate?
2. **Read Hebrews 4:15-16.** What do you think it means that Jesus (our high priest) is able to sympathize with our weaknesses?
3. **Read Luke 1:26-38.** How do you normally picture Mary and Joseph? If you were to put yourself in the shoes of Mary and Joseph at this time, what do you think you'd be feeling and experiencing? What do you think you would have done—if you were them?
4. Have you ever experienced a season of your life where you felt like God was leading you to do something crazy or impossible? If so, what was it and how did you see God move in that situation?
5. Jim defined faith as, *“Believing that God is who He says that He is and can and will do what He promised to do”*. What are you currently facing in life that's causing you to question your faith in God? What's holding you back from following Him in this situation?
6. Jim said, *“There comes a time when everybody will sit in their driveway before they open the door, go inside and say (or do) something that will change their life forever.”* Knowing this, what potential scenario comes to mind for you and what emotions are you feeling thinking about this? What do you need from God in order to take a step in faith forward?

Challenge:

The Christmas season is a difficult time to stay focused and connected to God, but try to block out at least 10-15 minutes each day dedicated to some quiet time with Him.

As you do this, spend some time reading the beginning of the Christmas Story in **Luke 1:26-38** (or one of your favorite Bible stories) and challenge yourself to see the people in those stories as real, imperfect human beings—just like everybody else.

Then, take a few minutes to journal about what you've seen (and learned) and ask God to continue to reveal Himself to you in these stories.

