

THIS IS *Christmas* US

When God asks you to do something hard

Matthew 1:18-2:23

1. Joseph was asked to do hard things
 - A. Marry Mary
 - B. Go to Egypt
 - C. Return to Nazareth

2. We are often asked to do similar hard things
 - A. Sacrifice what others may think of you
 - B. Leave the familiar and “safe”
 - C. Be content with Plan B
 - D. _____

3. Doing the right thing usually means doing the hard thing
 - A. Doing the hard thing requires strength of character.
 - B. Doing the hard thing is a matter of obedience and faith.
 - C. Doing the hard thing requires a selfless mindset.
 - D. Doing the hard thing may not bring immediate or obvious reward.

What is the hard thing that you need to do—now?

GROWTH *guide*

For those who are passionate about their faith!

Has God ever asked you to do something hard? If so, you are in good company. This week’s passages look at several people who stepped up to the challenge of doing a hard thing.

Monday | **Genesis 22:1-19**

What was Abraham asked to do? Why do you think God asked him to do something so hard? Why was Abraham willing to do what God had asked?

Tuesday | **2 Samuel 12:1-12**

How do you think Nathan felt about his task? Have you ever had to confront someone who was doing wrong? Why is it sometimes necessary? What are the best ways to do it?

Wednesday | **Acts 9:1-19**

Why was Annanias apprehensive? But what was his response? When has feared tempted you to not do what God wanted?

Thursday | **2 Kings 5:1-15**

Naaman seemed to feel that what he had been told to do was a hard thing. Why did it seem that way? How can pride affect your response to God?

Friday | **2 Kings 17:7-24**

What did Elijah as the widow to do? Why was it a difficult request? Have you ever put yourself in a situation where God had to come through for you?

Weekend | **Philemon 1:1-21**

What was Philemon asked to do? Have you ever struggled to forgive someone who wronged you? If Philemon did the hard thing, how would Onesimus be benefitted?