

**The Obedience of Faith  
Or  
Responding to the Incarnation with the Obedience of Faith**

December 5<sup>th</sup>&6<sup>th</sup>:

Genesis 22:1-19

Title: **“Trust & Obey”**

**Key Idea:** Faith is the kind of trust that leads to obedience.

Abraham trusted God & even said He'd provide a lamb. This is why we're told to believe: Because the first step of obedience, to believe God, leads to every other act of obedience. Verse 18: Prophecy of the incarnation. God gave the gift of the Ram instead of calling in the debt on the firstborn. God gives the gift of Jesus, instead of calling in the debt of sin.

December 12<sup>th</sup>&13<sup>th</sup>:

Numbers 21:1-9

Title: **“Confess, Believe & Look up”**

**Key Idea:** We all have a death sentence & must obediently confess our sin & look up to Christ as our only means of salvation.

The Israelites knew they had messed up. They confessed and believed God could save them. Then they trusted his provision and gazed upon it (the bronze snake). God's provision for the sin of humanity, didn't come in the form of a snake, but as a baby! But on the cross, He became a snake on our behalf: Full of our venom. Like the Israelites, we must recognize that we've messed up (we ARE messed up), we must trust God's provision(Christ) & look to Him. If not, the venom that is in us will eventually kill us. Don't try other means of getting the venom out (sucking it out (good works) etc.) Look at Christ and Him alone.

December 19<sup>th</sup>&20<sup>th</sup>: Luke 1(key verses 18-20)

Title: “What not to do when an Angel visits you and tells you you're going to have the forerunner of the Messiah” Not really. **“Faith amidst confusion”**

**Key Idea:** Even when things don't make sense, we must trust God and His sovereign plans & purposes.

Zacharias didn't understand God's plan. How could they have a baby at their age? There were probably many other questions going thru Zacharias's head. When, where, to whom will the Messiah come? Will he just appear as a man or be born as a baby? Etc. Even when we don't completely understand how & why God did all that He has done, we must simply believe. And when we do, like Zacharias, our response must be to bless the Lord, as Zacharias did after he received back his voice.

December 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>:

Revelation 2:1-7

Title: **Remember, Repent, & Return**

**Key Idea:** When we become focused on works, remember the love we had at first & why it's all about the object of our faith.

It's so easy to do, to constantly be working. We must sometimes pause and remember Christ & His Church. We must pause and remember the love that we had for them. If our love has grown cold, we must repent & return.