

Finding Peace in Tense Situations

Various Passages

A TENSE SITUATION

Tension in the Nativity

Mary's Tension: Her Body/Future (Luke 1:26-38)

Joseph's Tension: Reputation/True Love (Matt 1:18-19)

Herod's Tension: His Position (Matt 2:1-3)

Jesus' Tension: No Room (Luke 2:1-7)

THREE STRANGE (BUT POWERFUL) RESPONSES

James 1:2-5

1. A Strange **Attitude**: Rejoice.

2. A Strange **Response**: Embrace the Benefits.

3. A Strange **Prayer**: Lord, give me wisdom.

REALife Application

Use the following questions this week to reflect on what it would mean to align yourself with the truths taught in Scripture. Each question is meant for both personal reflection and as a catalyst for discussion with your family, friends, or REALife Group.

1. What are the top “tensions” in your life right now? Why are these things stressful? How do they impact your perspective about God and your faith journey?

2. Think through all the characters in the nativity story. Try to identify all their tension points because of the birth of Jesus.

3. Why is tension so important in growth? Why is it crucial to the Christian experience? See James 1:2-4; 1 Peter 1:6-7 and Romans 5:1-5.

4. What are some of the tension points in your life that you expect to see God show up this year? What are some ways that you can lean into your tension for maximum growth?

Memory Verse

² Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³ because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. ⁴ Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

James 1:2-4

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