



Obstacle #1 - Overcoming Unbelief: Mary's reaction to the news of her pregnancy was unbelief. Application: Many today disbelieve the truth of the Christmas Story; Mary couldn't have been a virgin, Jesus wasn't really the Messiah, the whole story is mythical.

Text: Luke 1:26 - 38 (emphasis on verse 34)

Obstacle #2 - Overcoming Disgrace: Joseph had feelings of betrayal from Mary's apparent infidelity and the shame and disgrace that would come from her pregnancy. Application: People allow the influence of what others may think to keep them from accepting and embracing God's Son.

Text: Matthew 1:18 - 25 (emphasis on verses 18 & 19)

Obstacle #3 - Overcoming Hardship: Mary & Joseph faced physical hardships on their journey to Bethlehem. Traveling in the end of her pregnancy on a mule, over steep terrain. Mary had to give birth to a baby in a smelly, poorly-lit stable. Application: If we are to complete our journey to the Christ Child, we too may have to endure hardship and discomfort.

Text: Luke 2:1 - 7