Intro/Theme: We live in a visible "out there" culture that glorifies the bold, strong and in your face. But there is a way to live big without shouting about it - it's living Big God's way.

JOSEPH - A BIG BIG MAN (Matthew 1:18-25 NIV)

- He had to deal with major anger and betrayal
  - Mary was found pregnant, never indicated she confessed
  - Must have been a temptation to get back or get even
  - He was unwilling to make himself look good and Mary bad

- He had to overcome fear
  - For men the fear of looking foolish or weak is very real
  - Not a great way to establish a family and reputation in the community

- His situation required some serious faith
  - Believing the angel was not automatic
  - He woke up and acted on what the angel said - did not drag his feet, talk about it, etc...

- Joseph put his own desires on hold
  - Had to wait to consummate the marriage
  - His first born would not carry his name

LIVING BIG TODAY

- Big enough to do the right thing
  - Not necessarily the easy thing
  - Not the thing that feels right or is the most emotionally satisfying
  - Don't expose, shame, put down or get even (1 Peter 3:9 NIV)

- Live bigger than your doubts and fears
  - So many fears today with a name for everyone of them
  - So many willing to muddy up the waters of your soul with doubts
  - Believe God and His word and let's live bigger than the fears that have bound us (Luke 1:45 NIV)

- Live big enough to put God and others first
  - The media idea of the emotionally stunted, intellectually weak Christian is wrong
  - You can do things that benefit others simply because you are a strong Christian
  - Living big is really living like Jesus (Mark 10:45 NIV)