

Matthew 1:18-25

18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. **19** And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. **20** But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. **21** She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." **22** All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

23 "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall call his name Immanuel"

(which means, God with us). **24** When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, **25** but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

Discussion/Journal Questions

How is everyone doing with the Resolve 2021 goals? How is your time in prayer, Bible, and Christian community going?

What do you do to prepare for the holidays?

Read Matthew 1:18-25. How is Joseph described in this passage? How did he react to the news about Mary?

Read Deuteronomy 22:21. What did the Law demand for cases of adultery? What would have happened to Mary if Joseph did not marry her?

In the sermon, John described the difference between tests and trials. How are they different? Why does God bring tests into our lives?

With Mary's story, we remember that God is for us. How does this change how we view tests in our lives?

Read Mark 6:3. What did Joseph lose by obeying God in taking Mary as his wife and raising Jesus as his son?

In the sermon, John said, "Jesus still calls people to be willing to die to reputation and status and comfort for the sake of love and His kingdom." How has this happened in your own life?

What tests or trials are you going through right now? How can your group pray for you?

Who are you praying for to accept Jesus, and what specifically did you do this week to interact with them?

Who are you currently discipling, and what specifically did you do this week to help them know, love, and follow Jesus?

Who are you considering for future discipleship relationships, and what specifically did you do this week to interact with them?