

This morning let's not be just 'hearers' of the Word, but 'doers of the word. Take some time at lunch, dinner, or bedtime to DIG DEEPER into the today's lesson and story. Take a few moments to apply today's lesson to our lives.

ASK MYSELF...challenging questions for the heart:

- 1. Where are you ready for God to breakthrough in your life?
- 2. What has God called you to do 'immediately' for him? What causes delay in your response of obedience?
- 3. What plan or purpose in your life have you been called to protect?
- 4. Take some time to reflect upon Joseph's story, and his response.

FOR THE FAMILY...challenging questions for family life:

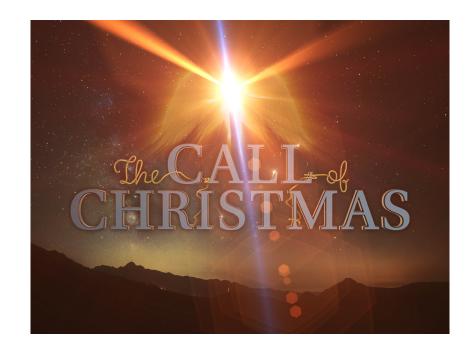
- 1. Read Matthew 1:18-35 together.
- 2. Discuss Joseph's role of protector of Mary and baby Jesus.
- 3. Discuss the Joseph's response to God in this tough situation.
- 4. Take some time pray together.

DEVOTIONS FOR THE SEASON...scan code for Advent inspiration:



The first message in our series speaks to the first call of Christmas being that of *a call to prepare*. What better way to daily *prepare* our hearts than to mediate on God's great gift to us this season. You'll enjoy this 31 day devotional guide as you focus on Christ this season.

http://bit.ly/2gy54JI



Today's Service

December 11th, 2016

Part 3 "Joseph: A Call to Protect"

Pastor Brian Stanley



Acts 2:17 (NLT) ¹⁷ 'In the last days,' God says, 'I will pour out my Spirit upon all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your young men will see visions, and your old men will dream dreams.'

Isaiah 65:1 (NIV) ¹ "I revealed myself to those who did not ask for me; I was found by those who did not seek me. To a nation that did not call on my name, I said, 'Here am I, here am I.'

Matthew 1:18-25 (NLT) ¹⁸ This is how Jesus the Messiah was born. His mother, Mary, was engaged to be married to Joseph. But before the marriage took place, while she was still a virgin, she became pregnant through the power of the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Joseph, to whom she was engaged, was a righteous man and did not want to disgrace her publicly, so he decided to break the engagement quietly. ²⁰ As he considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. "Joseph, son of David," the angel said, "do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For the child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit. ²¹ And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

 $^{\rm 22}$ All of this occurred to fulfill the Lord's message through his prophet:

²³ "Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means 'God is with us.'"

²⁴When Joseph woke up, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded and took Mary as his wife. ²⁵ But he did not have sexual relations with her until her son was born. And Joseph named him Jesus.

Isaiah 9:6 (NIV) ⁶ For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

"...he (Joseph) did as the angel of the Lord commanded..."

Matthew 2:19-23 (NLT) ¹⁹ When Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt. ²⁰ "Get up!" the angel said. "Take the child and his mother back to the land of Israel, because those who were trying to kill the child are dead." ²¹ So Joseph got up and returned to the land of Israel with Jesus and his mother. ²² But when he learned that the new ruler of Judea was Herod's son Archelaus, he was afraid to go there. Then, after being warned in a dream, he left for the region of Galilee. ²³ So the family went and lived in a town called Nazareth. This fulfilled what the prophets had said: "He will be called a Nazarene."

Psalm 119:60 (NLT) 60 I will hurry, without delay, to obey your commands. NOTES:

