



Digging Deeper

Putting your faith in ACTION!

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 meditate 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) ¹⁸This 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. ¹⁹Joseph, 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. ²⁰As 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. ²¹And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”

²²All 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. ²⁵But he did not have sexual relations with her until her son was born. And Joseph named him Jesus.

Isaiah 9:6 (NIV) ^aFor 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) ¹⁹When 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.” ²¹So Joseph got up and returned to the land of Israel with Jesus and his mother. ²²But 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. ²³So the family went and lived in a town called Nazareth. This fulfilled what the prophets had said: “He will be called a Nazarene.”

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

NOTES:

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.