

Episode #1 - **Joseph**

1. Read Matthew 1: 18-24. Had you been Joseph, how would you have navigated this sequence of events? What would have been Joseph's options? Why do you think Joseph chose to follow the angel's directive?
2. What experience do you have with marriages from other cultures? How do arranged marriages, dowries, legal agreements, and familial / social posturing affect who marries whom? What cultural issues could we assume were happening in this situation?
3. What social or financial "hits" do you think Joseph took for not "divorcing her quietly," or worse, having her stoned? How did God shake up Joseph's life?
4. Look up the following passages and discuss what you learn about Joseph's children.

John 7:3-5 - Brothers do not believe in him

Matthew 14:54-58 - Isn't this the carpenter's son? Isn't his mother's name Mary, and aren't his brothers James, Joseph, Simon and Judas?

Galatians 1:18-19 - Paul meets James, the "Lord's brother"

5. How has the risk of giving birth decreased in modern, western countries since Jesus time? What is the likelihood that Joseph would have had wives prior to Mary.
6. When have you had a sense that God is calling you to do something, not understanding the bigger picture of what God was doing in the world? Have you had to make significant lifestyle choices as a result? How did you deal with the "need to know" aspects of God's plans - particularly the parts that you don't know?
7. Read Matthew 2: 13-15 and Hosea 11:1. What parallels do you see between Joseph and Egypt in the Old Testament, and Joseph and Egypt in the New Testament?