

QUESTIONS FOR ADDITIONAL STUDY

1. Tell your story. What are some of the special traditions you have celebrated over the years during the holidays with family and friends?

2. What aspect of Joseph's life do you find most inspiring?

3. Read the following passages and note the Bible says about Integrity:
 - a) Proverbs 10:9
 - b) Proverbs 11:3
 - c) Proverbs 19:1
 - d) Proverbs 20:7
 - e) Luke 16:10
 - f) Titus 2:7-8
 - g) I Peter 3:13-16

4. How did Joseph handle his dilemma once he learned that Mary was pregnant? Do you agree with his decision? Why or why not?

5. What practical application are you going to make from this week's message? (*Share your decision with another person.*)
 - ☐ I am going to invite someone to join me for the Christmas Eve worship service.
 - ☐ I am going to find someone who is need this Christmas, and provide practical help for them anonymously.
 - ☐ I am going to memorize Proverbs 10:9.

Cornerstone Church
Matthew 1:18-25
Luke 1:26-38

December 22, 2024
Special Christmas Message

Joseph: The Unsung Hero of Christmas

I. Introduction

A. The Sunday School Picture

B. The Nativity Scene

C. Where's Joseph?

(See Isaiah 7:14; Luke 1:34; Luke 3:23; Matthew 1:16; Genesis 3:15; Luke 1:35; Galatians 4:4; Matthew 1:25; Matthew 1:20-21; Matthew 2:13; Matthew 2:19-20; Matthew 2:22)

II. Joseph: The Unsung Hero of Christmas

A. The Betrothal

(See Matthew 1:18; Judges 14:1-3)

B. The Announcement

(See Luke 1:26-33; Luke 1:34)

C. The Visit

(See Luke 1:39-45)

D. The Dilemma

(See Matthew 1:19; Deuteronomy 22:23-24; Exodus 22:16-17; Matthew 1:20; John 8:41)

III. Conclusion

A, Happily Ever After?

(See Matthew 2:1-12; Matthew 2:13-15; Matthew 2:19-23)

B. Lessons Learned from Joseph

If you would like to know more about what it means to be a Christian, or if you would like to talk with someone or have someone pray for you, please see the pastor after the service and he or one of our church leaders will be glad to speak with you.

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Passage of Study

Matthew 1:18-25

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: when His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ And Joseph her husband, being a righteous man and not wanting to disgrace her, planned to send her away secretly. ²⁰ But when he had considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of 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 Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ²³ “Behold, the virgin shall be with child and shall bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which translated means, “God with us.” ²⁴ And Joseph awoke from his sleep and did as the angel of the Lord commanded him, and took *Mary* as his wife, ²⁵ but kept her a virgin until she gave birth to a Son; and he called His name Jesus.

Additional Reading: Luke 1:26-38

²⁶ Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the descendants of David; and the virgin’s name was Mary. ²⁸ And coming in, he said to her, “Greetings, favored one! The Lord *is* with you.” ²⁹ But she was very perplexed at *this* statement and kept pondering what kind of salutation this was. ³⁰ The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; ³³ and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end.” ³⁴ Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” ³⁵ The angel answered and said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God. ³⁶ And behold, even your relative Elizabeth has also conceived a son in her old age; and she who was called barren is now in her sixth month. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God.” ³⁸ And Mary said, “Behold, the bondservant of the Lord; may it be done to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.