



TIME OF GRACE®

Grace_{notes}

guides for personal Bible study

Heroes of Christmas: Joseph

Matthew 1:18-25: ¹⁸“This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, ‘Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.’ ²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³‘The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel’ (which means ‘God with us’). ²⁴When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. ²⁵But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.”

Points to Ponder

1. Read **Matthew 1:19**. Do you blame Joseph for considering calling off his marriage? What changed his mind?
2. Read **Matthew 1:20**. Why is it important that Joseph was a “son of David”?
3. In the message that the angel gave to Joseph, he pointed out that all of these happenings were to fulfill Scripture. Isaiah 7:14 would be fulfilled by Jesus’ birth and Joseph and Mary naming the baby Jesus. How many Old Testament prophecies did Jesus fulfill?

4. How is Joseph an example of how God tests us sometimes before he reveals his will? Sometimes he empties us before he fills us up. How did Joseph stand up under that test? How do you do in times of testing?

5. What two names for the Christ Child are given in these verses? What do these names mean and therefore mean for you?

Joseph is another Christmas example of unwavering faith. Though he was tested by Mary's condition, he believed the dream and God's plan for his life. He took Mary as his wife and was the stepfather to the Savior. We too can believe that God has a plan for us and that this same Jesus came to earth to save us and give us heaven.

What else does God say?

Isaiah 7:14: Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

1 Peter 1:7: These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.