

A New Beginning

God calls us to give of ourselves sacrificially, and Jesus modeled this for us perfectly.



The Transformation for Adult LifeGroups

Matthew 1:18-25

December 15, 2019

TODAY'S TEXT—open your Bible, use a Bible app on your phone, or follow along below

Matthew 1:18-25

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. ¹⁹ Because 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. ²⁰ But 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. ²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." ²² All 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"). ²⁴ When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. ²⁵ But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

FIRST THOUGHTS

- What's the craziest home light display you've ever seen at Christmas? What's the craziest decoration you've ever put up at your home?
- Do you ever find yourself competing with your neighbors to have the best Christmas lights or decorations?
- What's one way we typically think more about ourselves at Christmas than we do at other times of the year?
- Why do you think we are prone to letting Christmas become "all about us"?

EXPLORE THE TEXT

> Have a volunteer read Matthew 1:18-25

- What catches your attention most in this very familiar account of the birth of Jesus?
- In verse 18, "birth" is the Greek word *genesis*, meaning "beginning, origin, or birth." Genesis is the first book of the Old Testament in our Bible, and it begins with the phrase, "In the beginning..." What is the significance of the "genesis" of Jesus Christ as we turn to the Gospel of Matthew in the New Testament?
- Luke 1 tells us it was the angel Gabriel who informed Mary that she had found favor with God and would conceive the Son of God by the power of the Holy Spirit. How do you imagine Mary felt hearing this news? What do you think was going through her mind?
- Joseph knew that Mary could be stoned to death for adultery under the law. What do you learn about Joseph from these verses?
- According to verses 20-21, what two responsibilities did the angel give Joseph? How would it cost Joseph something of himself in order to do what was asked of him?
- What can you surmise about the faith of Joseph from Matthew 1:18-25?
- How did Joseph thoughtfully give of himself in obedience to God?

SUMMARIZE AND CHALLENGE

Why is it important for us to discuss the whole idea of sacrificial giving at this time of year?

What most frequently stands in the way of you thinking of others before yourself?

What opportunities to give more of yourself do you anticipate having this week? How will you take advantage of them?

PREPARING FOR NEXT YEAR

We will meet again on January 5, 2020. Our next study is called, "Kingdom Identity," and we will look at what it means to live like Jesus in the Kingdom of God. Enjoy your time with family and friends as we celebrate the birth of our Savior. Merry Christmas!

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE

15th – James 1-5 | **16th** – 1 Peter 1-5 | **17th** – 2 Peter 1-3; John 1 | **18th** – John 2-4 | **19th** – John 5-6 | **20th** – John 7-8 | **21st** – John 9-11

Our Vision:

TO BE A CHURCH
FOR THE UNCHURCHED,
HERE AND AROUND THE WORLD.

Adult LifeGroups:

A GOSPEL-CENTERED COMMUNITY
THAT AIMS TO KNOW GOD TOGETHER
AND BE CHANGED BY HIM IN A WAY
THAT WILL CHANGE THE WORLD.