

Joseph's Story
Matthew 1:18-25

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NOTES

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Suggested Questions for Individual
Study or Group Discussion*



- Do you remember any of your recent dreams? If so, what were they about?
- Read *Matthew 1:18-25*. What unique elements of the Christmas story stand out to you in Matthew's telling?
- What does Matthew state directly and reveal indirectly about the type of person Joseph was?
- If you were in Joseph's place in v. 18-19, what would you anticipate thinking and feeling? What would you do?
- Why would the angel need to tell Joseph, "Do not be afraid"? What are some things Joseph might fear?
- What are ways you have experienced fears similar to Joseph's?
- How does Joseph respond to the angel's message? In what ways can Joseph's response be a model for us?
- What does the angel reveal about who Jesus is and what Jesus comes to do?
- What is an anxiety or fear you are facing this week? How can your knowledge of Jesus' identity and mission help you address your fear? How can your small group or others support and pray for you in this?

For Family Discussion: Ask: *Can you tell me about a dream you have had?* Read *Matthew 1:18-25*. Ask: *What does Matthew tell us about Joseph and Mary? Why does the angel tell Joseph, "Do not be afraid"? What promise does the angel give to Joseph? How would this help him to not be afraid? What does Joseph do? What are things that make you afraid? How can knowing that Jesus is "God with us" help you? Pray together about things that make you afraid.*

*Select or adapt questions to fit the needs and makeup of your group.