



“Advent Four: Christmas Lessons & Carols” December 18

Discussion Questions

1. Put yourself in Joseph’s shoes. How would this whole episode feel? What do you think his experience was like? What was he like as a person?
2. Have you ever “heard from God” in a way that made you change something you planned on doing?
3. Read the first verses of Matthew. Why do you think Matthew wants us to know that Joseph is a descendent of Abraham and David? Why does this matter?
4. Based on the reading from Matthew, what’s important to know about Christmas?
5. Do you experience Jesus as “God with us”? How?

Matthew 1:18-25

Joseph Accepts Jesus as His Son

¹⁸ This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about^[a]: 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^[b] 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,^[c] 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"^[d] (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.