

Matthew 1:18-25 Joseph

12/16/18

Read the passage each day and take one question to hear from God.

1. As we read about Mary last week, even with an angelic visitation beforehand, it was hard to get her mind around giving birth to the Son of God as a virgin. Initially Joseph is trying to get his mind around this without an angelic visitation. Where do you think his thoughts went at first?
2. Yet even prior to Joseph's own visit from an angel in a dream, you can see a snapshot of Joseph's character. Godly character makes us more useable for God's purposes. Where do you see Godly character in Joseph? In Mary? Though they were "nobodies" by the world's standards, how can you see God's wisdom in picking them to raise Jesus?
3. The shepherds, Mary, and Joseph all received communication from God by "unconventional means". Have you ever had God speak to you through "unconventional means"? Share what that was like. How comfortable are you with listening for God's voice in the diverse ways He may choose to speak? How sensitive are your "spiritual ears"?
4. Joseph's humility is commendable. First of all his role in Jesus' upbringing was huge, but he only gets a few verses in the Bible. Secondly, by taking Mary into his home ahead of schedule, any murmurs in the village about Mary's quick pregnancy would reflect more on Joseph – deflecting "negative press" from her. What role do you think humility plays in our "usability" for God? Is humility easy or hard for you?
5. Both Mary and Joseph obeyed God in a costly path; and all time and eternity benefits from their obedience. When God calls you to do something that is costly to you, what do you find that helps fuel your willingness to obey and follow Him?

Weekly Family Activity

Families with Younger Children (Prek-2nd Grade)

Have them draw out this scene on paper in their own design. Ask them to "re-tell" the story once they've done drawing it up. It gives you as a parent the chance to see what they remember and can see their artwork in full Display. Legos, playdough or other resources can be used as well to help with this idea.

Later Elementary to Early Middle School (3-6th Grade)

Play the telephone game or the Whisper Challenge (google whisper challenge if you're unfamiliar with this hilarious act). After a few rounds get your kids talking about what it's like to not be able to hear a message clearly. It's a great illustration on listening and learning the art of listening. A way to model this on a faith level is by encouraging kids to write down what is true and where we can find that truth in the bible.

Middle School to High School (7-12th Grade)

Play the Whisper Challenge (google whisper challenge if you're unfamiliar with this hilarious act). After a few rounds get your kids talking about what it's like to not be able to hear a message clearly. It's a great illustration on listening and learning the art of listening. A way to model this on a faith level is by encouraging kids to write down what is true and where we can find that truth in the bible. With MS & HS students especially, give them space for you to share when you do and do not hear from Jesus. Share what is it like for you to TRUST IN FAITH when Jesus is

moving. Like what He did with Joseph, obedience is a key factor in our discipleship process. This is a great way to model authenticity and transparency.