



Matthew 1:18-25--This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. 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. 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." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"—which means, "God with us." When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

Take a Fresh Look through Joseph's Eyes

1. His _____ with _____.

Matthew 1:19--Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

2. His _____ toward _____.

Matthew 1:19,20--Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. 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."

3. His _____ to God.

Matthew 1:20,21--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. 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."

4. His _____ to God.

Matthew 1:22-24--All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"—which means, "God with us." When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife.

5. His _____ to _____ God.

Matthew 1:25--But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

Small Group Discussion Questions:

1. What amazes you most about Joseph's role in the Christmas story? What can we learn from him?
2. Review the points and verses from this lesson. What personal application can you make from this teaching?
3. Which of the 5 character traits that Joseph emulated is most impressive to you and why? Which of the 5 do you want to see matured in your life?
4. Take some time right now to pray for the needs of those in your small group.