

## Study Guide

### Peace

### Matthew 1:18-25

1. Discuss why the virgin birth is so central to our Christian faith.

Matthew 1:18- *"Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit."*

Luke 1:35- *"And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God."*

2. Read Matthew 1:19-20a:

*"And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup>But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream...*

What must Joseph have felt when he found out that Mary was pregnant? Describe a time when your world was rocked and you had a sleepless night. What was that like for you?

3. Read Matthew 1:20b-21:

*"Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."*

Can you think of a time when the voice of God became a calming presence in your life?

4. Read Matthew 1:22-23:

*"All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: <sup>23</sup>'Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel'" (which means, God with us)."*

How can the promises of God offer us peace with unanswered questions? What does it mean to you, that "God is with us.- Immanuel"?

5. Read Matthew 1:24-25

*"When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, <sup>25</sup>but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus."*

Joseph let go...

1. ...of what others would think of him (shame)
2. ...of law and punishment (performance)
3. ...of what life "should" be like.

What can we learn from Joseph as the Shalom Stepfather? What do you need to let go of, to restore Shalom in your life?

## Message Slides

*Birth of Christ- Image*

*>include each on mouse click<*

Matt. 1:1-17 Humanity- He came to Relate!

Matt. 1:18-25 Deity- He came to Rescue!

*Shalom-image*

### **Big Idea- The deity of Christ restores peace**

#### **I. Out of This World- The Virgin Birth (v.18)**

"Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit."

*>on mouse click<*

Luke 1:35- "And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God."

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#### **II. The Anxious Experience- Joseph (v.19-20a)**

"And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup>But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream..."

#### **III. The God Experience (v.20b-21)**

"Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

#### **IV. The Life of Promise (v.22-23)**

"All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

<sup>23</sup>'Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us).'"

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#### **V. Becoming Shalom (v.24-25)**

"When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, <sup>25</sup>but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus."

>each on mouse click<

Joseph let go...

1. ...of what others would think of him (shame)
2. ...of law and punishment (performance)
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*During Communion*

*Add image of bread?*

1 Cor. 11:24a

"This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Prayer

"God, since you have proven your love for me, I willfully let go of..."

1. ...what others think of me.
2. ...Law and performance.
3. ...what I think life "should" be like.

*Add image of cup?*

1 Cor. 11:25

"This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Prayer

"Thank you for the new covenant, the gospel of peace. Thank you for..."