

Advent- Peace
Matthew 1:18-25
Study Guide

1. Read Matthew 1:18-19.

"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. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly."

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

2. Read Matthew 1:20-21.

"But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream 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. 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 God revealed Himself to you in some way? What was that like?

3. Read Matthew 1:22-23:

"All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: ²³ '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 [you].- Immanuel"?

4. Read Matthew 1:24-25

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

Joseph let go of...

- a. ...what others would think of him (shame)
- b. ...law and punishment (performance)
- c. ...what life "should" be like.

What can we learn from Joseph? What do you need to let go of, to restore peace in your life?

5. At times I can tend to imagine worst case scenarios. If I'm not careful, a situation can 'own' me before it has even come to pass. It robs me of peace and my sense of wholeness. What tend to be your 'peace-robbers'? What has helped you to keep anxiety at bay?

Peace
Matthew 1:18-25

'Shalom' (*Hebrew*)- used as a Jewish greeting. (Webster)
Harmony, wholeness, completeness, prosperity, welfare and tranquility
To make complete or restore. (Wikipedia)

Big Idea- I can only find true Shalom when I am One with God through Christ.
All unanswered questions are already answered in Christ.

Isaiah 9:6- "...and His name shall be called wonderful...Prince of [Shalom]!"

John 14:27- "My peace I give to you."

Rom. 5:8- "Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."

Eph. 2:14- "For He Himself is our peace, who has made us both one..."

I. The Virgin Birth (v.18)

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."

Big Idea- I can only find true Shalom when I am One with God through Christ.

II. The Anxious Experience (v.19-21)

¹⁹ And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream...

III. The God Experience (v.20-21)

²⁰ 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. ²¹ 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 Fulfillment (v.22-23)

²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

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

Big Idea- I can only find true Shalom when I am One with God through Christ.

V. Becoming Shalom (v.24-25)π

²⁴ When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵ but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

How do I get to 'Shalom'?

1. Where have I been inviting God into my story, rather than stepping into His?
2. What is God asking me to let go of?