

DON'T BE AFRAID

You Can Trust God With Your Fears

**A look at God's message
to those participating in
the birth of our Lord.**

Lesson 3

Mission Arlington • Mission Metroplex Christmas Curriculum • 2010

3

What Do I Do Now? Matthew 1:18-25

Joseph, Take Mary Home as Your Wife

Scriptures

Matthew 1:1-17
Matthew 6:33
Proverbs 3:5-6
Psalm 119:9-11
Psalm 119:104-105

Memory Verse

Do what is right.
And don't give
in to fear.
(1 Peter 3:6
NirV)

Have you ever been afraid at a time when most people are happy and celebrating? Have you ever thought that the participants of the very first Christmas were fearful? Zechariah had been fearful, but Gabriel encouraged him not to be afraid. God had heard Zechariah's prayers. Mary was also fearful. Even though God was pleased with her, she couldn't figure out how she, a virgin, was going to have a baby.

And then there was Joseph. He and Mary had made a promise to marry each other, but now she was pregnant and Joseph knew the baby wasn't his. Joseph didn't know, yet, that Mary "became pregnant by the power of the Holy Spirit." (Matthew 1:18b NirV)

Joseph didn't want to marry a woman who, as far as he knew, was having another man's baby, but he was a godly man. "He did not want to put her to shame in public. So he planned to divorce her quietly." (Matthew 1:19 NirV)

While Joseph was trying to decide exactly what to do, an angel visited him. This visit was different from Zechariah's and Mary's visits. The Bible doesn't tell us if the angel was Gabriel, but whoever this angel was appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, don't be afraid to take Mary home as your wife. The baby inside her is from the Holy Spirit. She is going to have a son. You must give Him the name Jesus. That is because He will save His people from their sins." (Matthew 1:20b-21 NirV)

Once Joseph heard the angel's message, he didn't doubt. "Joseph woke up. He did what the angel of the Lord commanded him to do. He took Mary home as his wife." (Matthew 1:24 NirV)

Can you imagine? Joseph thought he had it all figured out; his life was going pretty well. He had a good job as the town carpenter and he was engaged to a good girl named Mary. Then, Mary came back from visiting family and was visibly pregnant! Can't you imagine Joseph asking himself, "What do I do now?" Joseph didn't rush into a decision out of anger or hurt. Joseph spent time thinking about what he should do. Then, when God spoke, and made His plan clear, Joseph was obedient. Joseph didn't have to understand how everything was going to happen. He didn't need to worry about what everyone else would think. Joseph trusted God and obeyed Him and was entrusted with naming the newborn Son of God

Application

Something difficult has happened in your life (or will soon). So, which is it? Will you be fearful of all that could happen next and what people will think or will you trust God and obey His word and choose to do the right thing?

Follow Joseph's example, and do what is right. Let God's Word, the Bible, guide you. Review what it says and live by it.

when He was born! Joseph wouldn't be able to pass on his own name, at least not to this child. He could do that as he and Mary had other children. (Matthew 13:55, Mark 6:3) No, Joseph would name this child Jesus. God had chosen that name because of its meaning. The name Jesus means *Savior*, or *God saves*. Jesus was God coming down to man. He is the way to God. Do you know Him? Don't you want to?

How about you? Have you ever wondered, "What do I do now?" Maybe life was going along pretty smoothly for you and then you were blind-sided by something that happened, something you didn't expect. What was your response? Did you react in anger? Did you lose hope that God could even take care of it? Or are you trusting in the God of the universe, knowing that nothing is impossible with Him?

When the decision is difficult, how do you know what to choose, what to decide? It helps to be surrounded by people who love God and will give you godly advice. It is extremely important to focus on God and what He has already told us in the Bible. There is a verse in Second Peter that says, "God's power has given us everything we need to lead a godly life." (2 Peter 1:3 NIV) God is not trying to be controlling. He loves you, so much that He sent His Son to take the punishment for all the times you choose to do things your own way. He knows what is best for you. Will you trust Him to lead you, even if it doesn't make sense to you? You can never go wrong being obedient to God.

Preparing for the next Lesson

Lesson 4

Am I Important? Do I Matter? - Luke 2:1-20

Activities

- **Memory Verse Activity:** Write each word of the memory verse on small squares of paper. Mount the paper onto wooden blocks. Have your students take turns ordering the memory verse. You can also make two sets and divide your students into two teams. Have them race to see who can order the verse the fastest.
- Read Matthew 1:1-17. Talk about Joseph's genealogy. Make family trees.
- Reenact the story, with Joseph napping and the angel visit. Be sure to "marry" Joseph and Mary. Dress up if possible.
- Make crafts with wood. Talk about Joseph being a carpenter.
- Make tunics, cloth belts, head coverings and sandals. (Use these in the reenactment.)
- **Dig Deeper:** Read the context of the memory verse and discuss.
- **Dig Even Deeper:** Matthew 1:21 in the Amplified Bible reads, "She will bear a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus [the Greek form of the Hebrew Joshua, which means Savior], for **He will save His people from their sins** [that is, prevent them from failing and missing the true end and scope of life, which is God]." Talk about this in detail.



**Do what is right.
And don't give in to fear.
1 Peter 3:6**

Word Search

d o n t t e f r a i d e d n t
a i y r e l i z t e r l r m e
d l a r p i h e a r d a a r p
i e p r e z t h e w i t e m p
a n o l f a n d h a h z h f e
r n o t g b p e r p a a r w l
f a y a w e h d e r a p t r p
a t b r i t n o o i e l y a m
e h e y a h p n y o e r a f e
b g o j n l e o d i a f r a t
t i o z e c h a r i s r p r e
s r a g f a r b e d m e l e k
n e l a e v i g o e o t l e o
e a p n a g y m r i e e b a g
d r a e b t e j d a l p e l p

Find each word of the memory verse, and the reference, in the word search above.

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a i y r e l i z t e r l r m e
d l a r p i h e a r d a a r p
i e p r e z t h e w i t e m p
a n o l f a n d h a h z h f e
r n o t g b p e r p a a r w l
f a y a w e h d e r a p t r p
a t b r i t n o o i e l y a m
e h e y a h p n y o e r a f e
b g o j n l e o d i a f r a t
t i o z e c h a r i s r p r e
s r a g f a r b e d m e l e k
n e l a e v i g o e o t l e o
e a p n a g y m r i e e b a g
d r a e b t e j d a l p e l p

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y o b e a i d r u y
r a d o y p r a f r
e y o u a r d i e r
h e a r r i g h t d
d i o n t o y u w a
y o u r y p r a e r
t d o n t r a d i a
b a p r a y e r e h
f e a r h e a r d e

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