

# **the Light of the World**

## **Lesson 3: God is the Source of Salvation and Light**



# God is the Source of Salvation and Light

## Matthew 1:18-25

Advent Candle

Scriptures: Micah 7:7-8

Joseph

**Memory Verse:** The Lord is a light for me. Micah 7:8b (NIRV)



Have you ever been walking in the woods at night? It gets pretty dark. Imagine that you are walking through the woods at night with no light, when a friend walks up and offers you a flashlight. Do you take it? Let's see who was offered the light of truth in our lesson and what they did with it!

So far we have heard about the announcement of the birth of a baby boy named John. John wasn't the light that was coming into the world. John would be born to tell others about the Light. Then came the announcement that Mary, a young virgin, would have a baby! This baby would be the Light! He would be born to bring us out of the darkness of sin. His name would be Jesus, the Son of the Most High God.

"This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about." (Matthew 1:18a NIRV) Mary was engaged to a man named Joseph. They had promised to marry the other. "But before they started to live together, it became clear that she was going to have a baby." (Matthew 1:18b NIRV) Mary was going to have a baby by the power of the Holy Spirit, but Joseph didn't know that. All Joseph knew was that the baby that Mary was carrying was not his.

This situation could turn out badly! Mary and Joseph are engaged, but not married or living together. Mary is pregnant and Joseph isn't the father. But the Bible describes Joseph as a godly man. That means he was righteous (just, noble, upright). He was a good man. And even though Mary was pregnant with someone else's baby, Joseph didn't want to expose Mary or put her to shame in front of their whole town of Nazareth. Even though Joseph didn't want to put Mary to shame publicly, he didn't want to continue with the wedding, either. He planned to call it off quietly.

"But as Joseph was thinking about this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream." (Matthew 1:20 NIRV) The angel told Joseph not to be afraid to marry Mary. The angel explained that the baby inside of Mary was from the Holy Spirit. The angel even told Joseph that the baby would be a boy. God knew that, because Joseph was a good man, he would struggle when he found out that Mary was pregnant. But God also knew that Joseph would make a good earthly father for his Son, Jesus. Would Joseph agree to

God's plan? What would he do with the light of truth that the angel had given him? The angel continued, "You must give Him the name Jesus. That is because He will save His people from their sins." All of this was happening so that God could complete the promise He made to Isaiah hundreds of years before, "'The virgin is going to have a baby. She will give birth to a Son. And He will be called Immanuel.'" – (Isaiah 7:14) The name Immanuel means 'God with us.'" (Matthew 1:23 NIV)

Joseph had fallen asleep thinking Mary had been unfaithful to him before they ever married. He learned the truth from the angel of the Lord. When Joseph woke up from his dream, he obeyed God by doing what the angel commanded him to do. Joseph and Mary were married, but they did not sleep together until after Jesus was born.

### Review

1. Who was Mary going to marry? (Joseph)
2. What does the Bible tell us about Joseph? (He was a godly man.)
3. What did Joseph think about Mary's pregnancy? (He didn't want to put her to shame publicly, but he didn't want to marry her either.)
4. What happened next? (God sent an angel to Joseph in a dream to tell him the truth.)
5. How did Joseph respond? (He obeyed God and married Mary.)

### Application

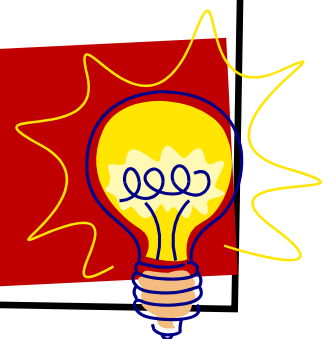
We began by thinking about walking around in the dark woods at night without a light. If a light were offered to you, it would be very unwise not to take it, wouldn't it?

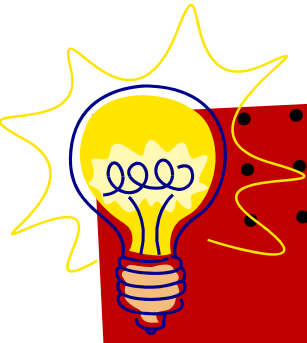
We saw in our story that Joseph was originally in the dark about Mary's pregnancy. When the angel of the Lord came to him in a dream and told him the truth, Joseph had to make a decision. What did he do with the truth? He took it and accepted it and welcomed Mary as his wife.

You see, Joseph knew about God's promise to send His Son, and he could say like others, "I will watch expectantly for the Lord; I will wait for the God of my salvation." (Micah 7:7 NIV)

Salvation comes from God through the death of Jesus Christ—who was coming as the Light of the World. Can you say with the prophet Micah, "the Lord is a light for me?" (Micah 7:8 NIV) Have you chosen to believe the truth and let the Light guide you?

Next Week  
The Light of the World  
Luke 2:1-7





# Activities

**Memory Verse Activity** - Make Chinese Paper Lanterns. Print the verse around the bottom border before gluing.

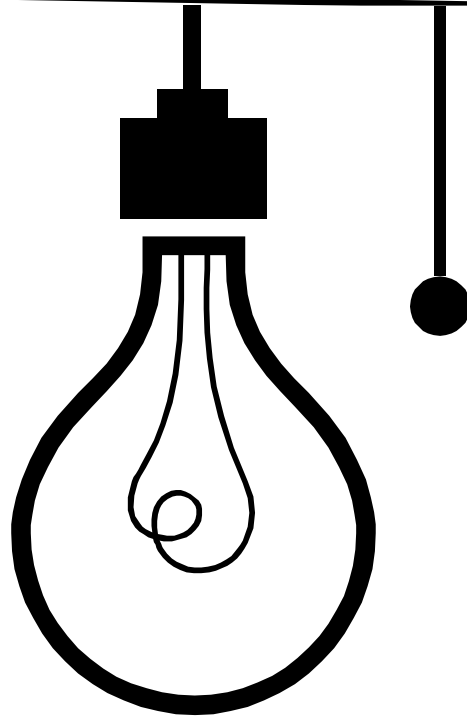
Sing “Joseph’s Song” (by Michael Card), “I Have Decided to Follow Jesus,” “Emmanuel,” “Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus,” “Great is Thy Faithfulness,” and “In His Time.”

Make angel garland for the Christmas Tree. Use rolls of paper from an adding machine. Fold back and forth about six times. Cut out angels, being sure to leave the arms connected. Open up the garland and hang it on the tree.

Make edible candles. Stack a banana upright in the hole of a pineapple ring. Top with a cherry for the flame.

Decorate your Christmas Tree with ornaments that point to Jesus’ death on the cross. (For example: craft stick crosses, sheep to represent Jesus as the Lamb of God, nails to point to the crucifixion, etc.)

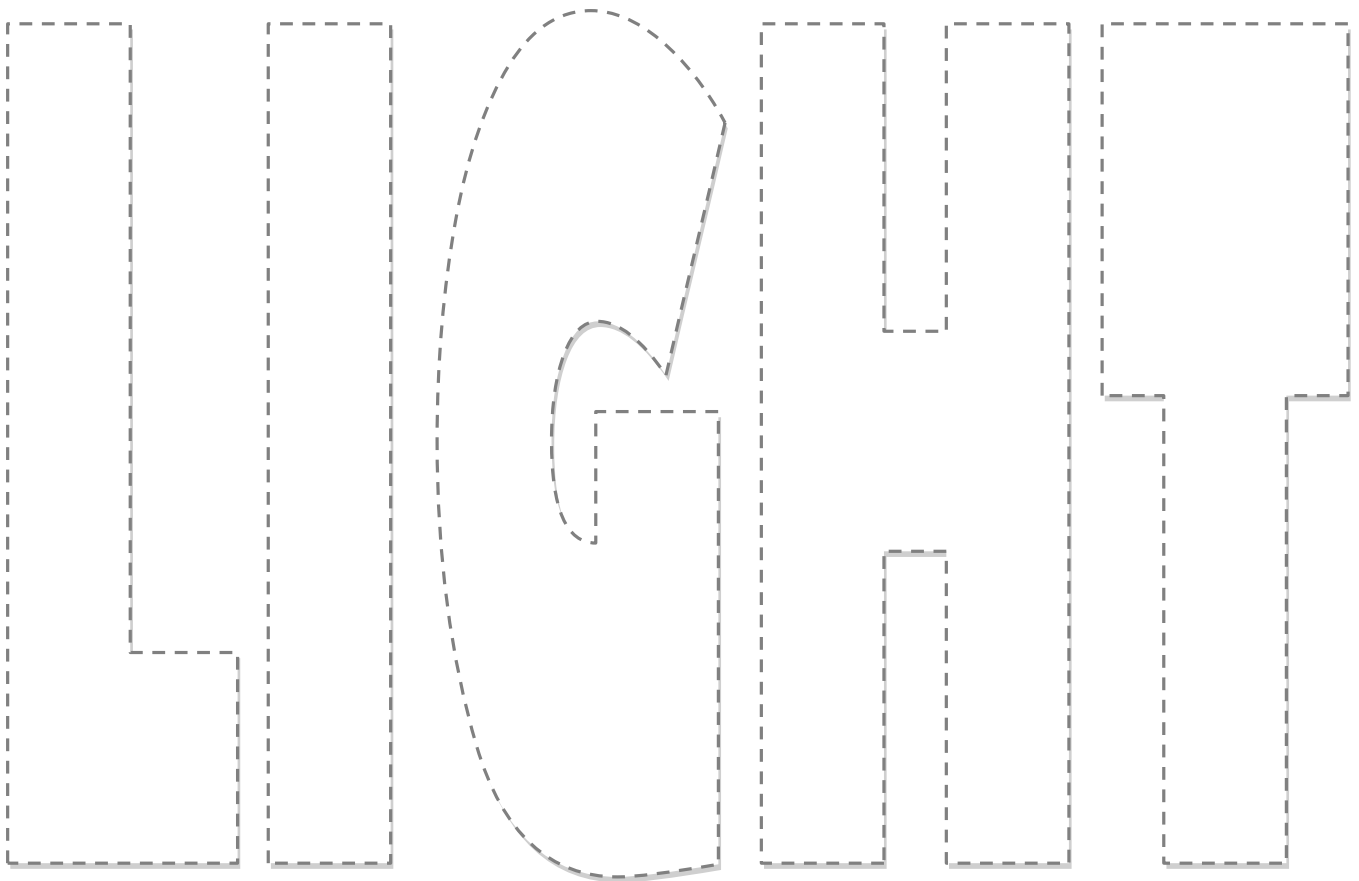
Read through Matthew 1 together. Talk about Joseph’s ancestors. Talk about stories from the Old Testament that you remember about some of them.



**The Lord  
is a light for me.  
Micah 7:8**

# Light Lessons

Micah 7:7-8 tell us that God is the source of salvation. He is also the source of what?  
Trace the letters below to find out.



# Word Search

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

Joseph

promise to marry

Mary

Jesus

God Saves

dream

angel of the Lord

Emmanuel

God with us

# Word Search

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