



Merry  
Christmas

HEY! THANKS FOR JOINING IN ON THE FUN WITH THIS STUDY. I HOPE AND PRAY THAT THROUGH THIS STUDY YOU WILL LEARN MORE ABOUT YOURSELF AND GOD. I HOPE AND PRAY THAT YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD DEEPENS AFTER THIS.

DURING THIS STUDY, WE WILL BE LOOKING AT MARY AND JOSEPH TOGETHER. AFTER THE FIRST SMALL PART OF THIS STUDY, IT'S YOUR TURN. YOU WILL BE ENCOURAGED TO STUDY ALL OF THE WELL KNOWN CHARACTERS IN "THE CHRISTMAS STORY" AND REFLECTING ON THEIR LIFE DECISIONS AND HEART POSTURES. WE WILL BE OBSERVING EACH OF THEM AND LOOKING AT THE EXAMPLE THAT THEY HAVE SET BEFORE US. LET'S DIVE RIGHT IN!



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READ MATTHEW 1:18-25

#### OBSERVATIONS

- SUMMARIZE. IN YOUR OWN WORDS, SUMMARIZE WHAT IS GOING ON IN THIS PASSAGE.
- PUT YOURSELF IN JOSEPH AND MARY'S SHOES. THINK ABOUT WHAT EMOTIONS THEY EACH POSSIBLY HAD IN THIS SITUATION.
- HOW DID JOSEPH REACT BEFORE HE KNEW THAT MARY WAS PREGNANT BY THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?
- HOW DID JOSEPH REACT AFTER HE FOUND OUT THE TRUTH?

#### PERSONAL REFLECTION

- HOW WOULD I PERSONALLY REACT TOWARD GOD IF AN ANGEL SUDDENLY APPEARED TO ME AND TOLD ME I WAS WITH CHILD BY THE HOLY SPIRIT. NOT ONLY THAT, BUT I AM GOING TO BE THE MOTHER OF THE MESSIAH? WOULD I BE AS MARY WAS - OBEDIENT AND TRUSTING? WOULD I DOUBT GOD? WOULD I BE SCARED?
- HOW WOULD I PERSONALLY REACT IF I WERE IN THE SAME POSITION AS JOSEPH WAS? WOULD I BE AS OBEDIENT AND JUST TOWARD GOD AND MARY? HOW WOULD I BEHAVE/REACT?
- HOW DO MY ANSWERS TO THESE TWO QUESTIONS REFLECT MY RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD? DO THESE ANSWERS SHOW THAT I AM CLOSE AND INTIMATE WITH GOD, OR AM I DISTANT?
- PONDER ON THESE QUESTIONS FOR A FEW MOMENTS.



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READ MATTHEW 2:13-15

- SUMMARIZE (IN YOUR OWN WORDS) WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THIS PASSAGE.
- HOW DID JOSEPH REACT TO GOD'S MESSAGE IN HIS DREAM?
- WHAT GOOD CAME FROM JOSEPH'S OBEDIENCE? (YOU MAY HAVE TO READ 2:1-17 FOR THE OVERALL DETAILS.)

READ MATTHEW 2:19-23

- SUMMARIZE (IN YOUR OWN WORDS) WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THIS PASSAGE?
- WHAT WAS THE ANGEL'S MESSAGE FOR JOSEPH?
- HOW DID JOSEPH REACT TO THE ANGEL'S MESSAGE?
- WHAT GOOD CAME FROM JOSEPH'S OBEDIENCE THIS TIME?

PERSONAL REFLECTION

READ JOHN 14:15, 1 JOHN 5:3, DEUTERONOMY 10:12-13, JOHN 14:23-24

- AFTER READING THESE VERSES, HOW DO WE SHOW GOD OUR LOVE FOR HIM?
- THAT BEING SAID, SHOULD WE OBEY GOD OUT OF OBLIGATION OR OUT OF DESIRE?
- WITH THIS KNOWLEDGE OF BIBLICAL OBEDIENCE, WHAT DO YOU THINK THIS SHOWS US OF MARY AND JOSEPH'S RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD AND FAITH IN GOD?



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STOP. 

- TALK TO GOD. TALK TO HIM ABOUT ANYTHING AND EVERYTHING THAT COMES TO MIND IN REFERENCE TO ALL OF THE THINGS YOU HAVE JUST OBSERVED IN EACH OF THE PASSAGES ABOVE. THIS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT PART. SO DON'T SKIP IT.



# Merry Christmas

## YOUR TURN

BREAK THIS UP INTO 6-10 DAYS TO AVOID BECOMING TIRED AND BURNED OUT FROM STUDYING AND PRAYING.

## READ

- MATTHEW 2:1-12
- LUKE 1:5-25
- LUKE 1:26-38
- LUKE 1:39-45
- LUKE 2:8-21
- LUKE 2:22-38

AFTER READING EACH PASSAGE, SUMMARIZE THE PASSAGE IN YOUR OWN WORDS. THEN, WRITE DOWN EACH "MAIN CHARACTER" MENTIONED IN THE PASSAGE. ASK SIMILAR QUESTIONS TO THE ONES ASKED IN THE FIRST PART OF THIS BIBLE STUDY GUIDE - QUESTIONS ABOUT THE CHARACTERS BEHAVIORS AND REACTIONS TOWARD GOD. ALSO, OBSERVE GOD'S BEHAVIORS AND REACTIONS TOWARD THE CHARACTER (IF THIS IS MENTIONED IN THE PASSAGE). ONCE YOU HAVE DONE THESE THINGS, REFLECT ON YOURSELF. ASK YOURSELF HOW YOU WOULD REACT IN THAT SAME SITUATION. REFLECT ON YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD, ASKING GOD TO SHOW YOU WHAT YOU NEED TO BE SHOWN ABOUT YOURSELF AND MORE IMPORTANTLY, WHAT YOU NEED TO BE SHOWN ABOUT GOD. TALK WITH HIM FOR HOWEVER LONG YOU NEED TO. I HOPE AND PRAY THAT THIS STUDY REACHES THE DEEPEST PARTS OF YOUR HEARTS AND MINDS, LEADING YOU TO WORSHIP GOD WITH YOUR LIFE.



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