



Matthew 1:18- 24

This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus,[f] because he will save his people from their sins.”

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).

When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife.

Icebreaker

When you were a child, what did you dream of becoming when you grew up?

Conversation Starters

1. Do you like action hero movies, and if you do, why?
2. What does the world teach us about being ordinary? Do you believe the saying “nice guys finish last”?
3. What are some traits that God values that the world does not necessarily value?
4. How important was it that worship and relationship with God was such a constant in Joseph’s life? Why? How would it change your life for God to be a constant part of it? Does that make it easier to respond when he calls on you to be an action hero?
5. What is an extraordinary hero in God’s kingdom anyway?
6. Joseph reacted to the news that Mary was pregnant with “consideration” BEFORE the angel told him the baby was from God. How do you tend to react when someone disappoints you or something goes wrong in your life?
7. Have you ever had to make an unexpected or difficult adjustment in your life?
8. Jesus in Luke 2:49⁴ “Why were you searching for me?” he asked. “Didn’t you know I had to be in my Father’s house?”
 - a. Jesus is talking to his parents, but what might he be saying to you directly through this text? Joseph responded by simply taking Jesus home.
 - b. What would it mean in your life to take Jesus home?