

the HOME SHEET

this week's topic:

WONDERFUL JOYOUS DAY FOR ALL
GREAT, UNIMAGINABLE, LIFE CHANGING THINGS



I. CHECK-IN

- Check-in with each other. How is life? What is happening? How is everyone doing?
- Check in about last week's challenge: *Identify something in your life or your community that currently doesn't seem to be going as planned. Invite Jesus to shift your perspective and intentionally pay attention to the beauty of what is happening.*

II. SCRIPTURE

Matthew 1:18-25: This is how the birth of Jesus Christ took place. When Mary his mother was engaged to Joseph, before they were married, she became pregnant by the Holy Spirit. Joseph her husband was a righteous man. Because he didn't want to humiliate her, he decided to call off their engagement quietly. As he was thinking about this, an angel from the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife, because the child she carries was conceived by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you will call him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." Now all of this took place so that what the Lord has spoken through the prophet would be fulfilled: Look, a virgin will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they will call him Emmanuel. (Emmanuel means God with us).

When Joseph woke up, he did just as an angel from God commanded and took Mary as his wife. But he didn't have sexual relations with her until she gave birth to a son. Joseph called him Jesus.

III. PRAYER

Spend some time sharing prayer requests with each other. As the small group leader, we ask that you do two things:

1. write them down
2. ask someone to pray

IV. DISCUSSION

- What things stood out to you from the scripture above?
- Is there a time when you have done something that only you could have pulled off?
- Professor Douglas Hare argues that according to scripture, Joseph doesn't "father" Jesus. In fact, for a moment, Joseph almost wasn't even part of the story. How does this insight change your understanding of this scripture?
- The prophet Jeremiah spoke of a coming day when God would raise up an offspring for David that would lead the Israelites and save them. For Matthew, connecting Jesus to this lineage meant that maybe Jesus was indeed the one of whom Jeremiah spoke of. Why would this have been good news for the people hearing the Gospel of Matthew for the first time?
- Joseph could have said no and God would have still found a way. But Joseph had been called to play a role that only he could play. Do you think there is something you can do to help bring about the kingdom of God that only you can do? Share with the group.

V. CHALLENGE

Joseph said yes to God by naming the baby Jesus and because of that yes, great, unimaginable, life changing things happened. What are some ways that you can say yes to God so that through you, great, unimaginable, life changing things can happen? (i.e. service projects, volunteering, checking on someone, etc.).

Be prepared to share about this next week.

MIDCITY CHURCH
WONDERFUL
JOYOUS
day for all