

**Advent**  
**December 13, 2020**

**"Preparation"**  
Matthew 1:18-25

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<sup>18</sup> "This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about<sup>[a]</sup>: 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. <sup>19</sup> Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet<sup>[a]</sup> did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

<sup>20</sup> 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. <sup>21</sup> She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus,<sup>[a]</sup> because he will save his people from their sins."

<sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: <sup>23</sup> "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"<sup>[a]</sup> (which means "God with us").

<sup>24</sup> When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. <sup>25</sup> But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus."

**PERSONAL REFLECTION PAGE** - Discovery Bible Study Format

What does the passage say? Rewrite it in your own words.

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What do you think the passage means? What do you learn about God? How does the passage point you to Jesus? What do you learn about people, or about yourself?

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This is God's Word speaking to you. Are there things you are doing well? Is there something specific He is telling you to do or change? What will you do? Be specific!

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HAND-OFF Who can you tell this week about what you learned? How will you share with them? Be specific and intentional!

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How else can you show God's love to other people this week? Who is in need? Consider ways to serve individually and also as a Small Group.

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