

Session 2: The Angel Speaks to Joseph

Good to Know

Joseph was Mary's fiancé. He was not happy to find out that Mary was pregnant because he knew he wasn't the dad. So he was planning to end their engagement. However, God sent an angel to Joseph to reveal to him the truth about Mary's baby.

Dig into the Passage

Read what the angel said to Joseph in Matthew 1:20-21:

²⁰ 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. ²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus*, because he will save his people from their sins."

* Jesus is the Greek form of Joshua, which means *the Lord saves*.

- What name was Joseph to give the baby and what does it mean (v 21 and the footnote starting with the *)?

- Put in your own words what the angel tells us about Jesus and about people (v 21).

Pause to Ponder

- If you had to explain to someone what "sin" is and why people need saving from it, what would you say?

Good to Know

Hundreds of years before Joseph was born, God sent a messenger called Isaiah to deliver a promise to his people. The writer Matthew tells us that Jesus' birth meant that that promise was coming true.

Dig into the Passage

Read Matthew 1:22-23 about Jesus and the birth that God had promised through Isaiah:

²² All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had said through the prophet [Isaiah]: ²³ “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).

- What other name did Isaiah say the special baby would be known by, and what does it mean (v 23)?

- What does that tell us about how Jesus is different to everyone else and why he can save people from sin?

How about You?

This might be a very familiar story. So just pause to think about the fact that God himself was willing to be born as a weak, tiny baby to poor, unimpressive parents because he wants to save people from sin.

- What have these verses made you think or feel?
