

These questions are provided for your further study and application of the message. Thoughtfully writing out the answers to these questions will help to drive home the point. It is also helpful to discuss your answers with others.

Discussion Questions

Date: December 16, 2018

Matthew 1:18-25

1. Last Sunday, we sang *Silent Night*. Do you believe that this Christmas song is an accurate portrayal of the birth of Jesus?
2. Matthew takes time to explain Joseph's response to Mary's pregnancy. What about Joseph's response stands out to you? How might you have reacted the same? How might you have reacted differently?
3. Read Deuteronomy 22:23-24. What does this verse tell us about the potential punishment for women who were unfaithful during their betrothal. Based on these verses, do you think that Mary always felt honored to be the mother of Jesus?
4. According to Matthew 1:20, Joseph took time to consider Mary's pregnancy and her claim that she had conceived of the Holy Spirit. How might your Christian life be different if you spent time carefully considering God's work around you? How might you do this?
5. After the angel spoke to Joseph, Joseph obeyed. How do you know when you should stop "considering" and start "obeying?" In what ways are these two concepts different?
6. Often God's will is best understood when looking back over our lives than it is when looking ahead in faith. Read Philippians 1:6 and Psalm 57:2. How do these verses give you faith to trust God in the hard times of life?
7. Family verse: Read and memorize Psalm 138:8. Discuss with your family or members of your LifeGroup how this verse applies to each of you today.