

Prayer and Study Starters

From the message, “Be Like Joseph”

For the week of December 21-25, 2015

Next Sunday: Matthew 3:1-17 and the Reaffirmation of Our Baptism (See pp. 50-52 in hymnal)

Memorize this verse: Matthew 1:24-25, “And Joseph awoke from his sleep and did as the angel of the Lord commanded him, and took Mary as his wife, but kept her a virgin until she gave birth to a Son; and he called His name Jesus.”

Monday: READ Matthew 1:18. MEDITATION: This verse speaks of “the birth of Jesus Christ,” which is the main point. Matthew’s Gospel begins with the human lineage of Jesus, which leads to His birth, His coming into our world. Mary and Joseph were “betrothed,” but they had not consummated their marriage. Now Mary was pregnant “by the Holy Spirit.” Before the angel came to explain it, what a struggle it must have been for Joseph! PRAY: “Lord, I can really relate to Joseph because things happen in my world that I do not understand. Help me to maintain spiritual balance as I wait for your answers to come.”

Tuesday: READ Matthew 1:19. MEDITATION: Joseph could have risen up in anger and resentment and had Mary condemned. He did nothing of the sort. With compassion and mercy he sought Mary’s wellbeing even though he must have thought she had cheated on him. PRAY: “Lord Jesus, fill me with patience and trust during those times when it seems everything has gone wrong.”

Wednesday: READ Matthew 1:20-21. MEDITATION: The Lord sent a message to Joseph through an angel in a dream. The impending birth of Jesus Christ was unique and glorious and deserved the attendance of angels, but surely God continues to speak to people today. Are we listening? PRAY: “Lord Jesus, help me not to miss a single word during all those times that You are speaking to my heart.”

Thursday: READ Matthew 1:22-23. MEDITATION: The fulfillment of prophecy! How incredible for Joseph to realize that prophecy was being fulfilled in his life! Let’s not rule out the possibility that God’s plans from long ago can be fulfilled in our lives. Christ came into this world 2,000 years ago, and He wants to come into our world tonight. PRAY: “Lord Jesus, on this Christmas Eve I believe in You. I believe that You came and that You were born into our world in Bethlehem a long time ago. Today, I pray that You will give me some new insight into how you are coming into our world today.”

Friday: READ Matthew 1:24-25. MEDITATION: “Joseph...did as the angel of the Lord commanded him.” It was not easy for Joseph to accept this high calling, and it is not easy for us to accept the high calling of God on our lives. With God’s help Joseph was able to do what God told him to do, and today with God’s help you and I can do what God calls us to do. PRAY: “Thank You, Lord, for a person like Joseph, who responded to your calling with such great faith! On this Christmas Day help me and my loved ones to hear your voice and obey your commands. In Jesus’ name I pray. Amen.”

Scripture quotations are from the
New American Standard Bible.