



Maranatha Weekly Study Guide - 12/16/20

If anyone in your family needs a Bible, please contact the office, kingsfordag@yahoo.com or 774-7631 ext. 7.

An important lesson this week: What to do when things are beyond our control.

What does it look like to be gracious in the face of betrayal, disappointment, and public humiliation?

How can we hear and trust the voice of God?

How do steps of faith taken today empower us for the future?



READ & DISCUSS: Remember how Mary submitted to God in our lesson last week (*Beginner's Bible* pg 266-270).

This week we're going to see how Joseph, Jesus's earthly father, responded to God.

Read Matthew 1:18-24. Adults may need to read it for children.

- How did Joseph respond to the news that Mary, his betrothed, was pregnant?
- Was Joseph's first plan wise, gracious and loving towards Mary?
- Was Joseph's first plan the same as God's plan?
- How did Joseph respond to an angelic dream presenting a different plan?
- Do you think it was an easy choice for Joseph to obey?
- Did Joseph listen to his fear to take Mary as his wife, or listen to his faith in God?
- Do you think Joseph's faith and obedience to God helped him as a parent to Jesus?

MEMORIZE: Deuteronomy 10:12, "And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God ask of you but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in obedience to him, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul."

Step 1: Recite the verse out loud, then ask: "How can I obey God this Christmas?"

Step 2: Recite the verse out loud again, then ask: "How can I love God this Christmas?"

Step 3: Recite the verse out loud again, then ask: "How can I serve God this Christmas?"

Repeat steps 1 - 3 until you can answer each question.

HAVE FUN:

Pick one of your favorite Christmas traditions that you haven't done yet and ask yourself how this tradition can fulfill the request of God to obey, love, and serve Him?

Then ask someone to do that favorite Christmas tradition with you.

While participating in the tradition you picked, share with those around you how you see the love of God.



APPLY IT: Hear and trust the voice of God.

- Is there something nice you have been thinking of doing for someone for Christmas but have hesitated? Stop and pray, asking God to guide you, then start to make plans to do a nice thing for someone.
- While preparing and delivering your nice thing, try to pay attention to what God may be saying to you and change your plans if you think God is giving you a different plan.
- Afterwards, look back for things you may have missed along the way that could have been encouraging messages from God helping you on your mission.

CHALLENGE:

Read Matthew chapter 2 and see how many more times Joseph had to rely on direct messages from God to change course in order to protect Jesus throughout his childhood?

Lessons from the Holy Family's Early Journey

Text: Matthew 1:1-25; 2:13-18

Genealogy – Establishing Identity

- Not every character in the Messiah's family tree was _____.
- The genealogy roots Messiah's identity in OT _____ – history, prophets, and poets.
- The genealogy breaks with cultural convention by naming four _____.

Betrothal, Betrayal, and Belief

- Betrothal versus _____.
- Family happens in a challenging, upended, _____ environment.
- How did Joseph _____?
- Hearing and trusting the _____ of God.

Life Enrichment

What about today's lesson challenged, disturbed, or encouraged you?

- What do you know about your family genealogy? Who were the characters?

- How does your ancestry shape your identity?
- Why is it surprising to find scandal in Jesus' genealogy? What does it teach us?
- Why is it important for Matthew to tie the genealogy to the OT patriarchs, kings, prophets, and poets?
- Put yourself in Joseph's shoes, how would you respond to Mary's announcement that she is pregnant?
- After the initial shock of the announcement, what would it take for you to believe Mary's Holy Spirit pregnancy explanation?
- What does Joseph's initial response (divorce her quietly) say about his character? His religious practice? His love for Mary?
- If God spoke to you through angelic visitation or a dream, how would you respond? What does Joseph's response teach us about hearing and obeying the voice of God?