

December 4 | Sunday

Joseph: Engaged

Read [Matthew 1:18-19](#)



05 | Mon – Devastating news | Read [Matthew 1:18-19](#), [Psalm:28-30](#), [Isaiah 43:1-4](#)

Imagine the pain Joseph felt when he found out that Mary was pregnant and he knew he was not the father. Being a godly man, it is possible that he sought comfort in the scriptures as we do when our dreams fall apart. Have you experienced a time when someone let you down? How can verses like the ones from Psalms and Isaiah give you a spiritual foundation from which you can move ahead in putting your life back together?

06 | Tue – Undeserved mercy | Read [Matthew 1:18-20](#); [Deuteronomy 22:20-24](#)

The verses in Deuteronomy tell us about Mary's possible fate. As painful as her "betrayal" was to him, Joseph loved Mary and did not want to see her harmed. What do you learn about Joseph's character from his choice to protect her by quietly calling off the wedding? He leaned in the direction of mercy when making his decision. Does acknowledging you may not have all the facts help you lean toward mercy when someone has wronged you?

07 | Wed – Famous members of Jesus' family tree | Read [Matthew 1:1-17](#)

Genealogy is key to identifying the Messiah. He had to be descended from Abraham and King David because of God's promises to these men. Notice other Bible "heroes" who are listed in Jesus' family tree. It is unusual for a woman to be named in genealogy, yet there are five women, including Mary, mentioned. All of them had faced obstacles and even scandal but God had worked through each of them as His story unfolded. Does God still work through unlikely people today? Does that give you hope that God will use you?

08 | Thu – An Old Testament namesake | Read [Genesis 39:2-10](#) and [41:39-43](#)

Jesus' earthly father, Joseph, was named for a great man in Israel's history who was known for his integrity and reliability. In Bible times, as we often do today, parents would choose names that captured the character they hoped their child would develop. What common characteristics from his namesake would a humble working man like Joseph want to emulate? Are you named for an admirable person you want to be like? If not, maybe someone name their child after you because of the character qualities you now exhibit!

09 | Fri – Joseph parenting our Saviour | Read [Luke 11:11-13](#)

Is it possible we can learn something about how Joseph parented Jesus by the ways Jesus spoke of fathers in his teachings? Jesus' words in Luke 11 assume that it would be unthinkable for a father to respond to a child's needs with a mean spirit. Instead Jesus said that even people we would classify as "bad," still know how to give good gifts to their children. Then Jesus assured us that our Father in heaven, whom we cannot see, is much more willing to give us good gifts like the Holy Spirit. Has your relationship with God grown to the point that you can see Him as a good Father? If not, ask Him to reveal His goodness to you.

10 | Sat – Saving us from what? | Read [Matthew 1:20-21](#) and [Acts 5:27-32](#)

In a dream, the angel told Joseph he could believe Mary and should proceed with wedding plans because the child born to her would save their people from their sins. Most Jewish people wanted salvation from the Roman occupation but God knew they need to be saved from something much worse. What about you? It is easy to forget sometimes that we all need a savior. We all miss the mark. In what area of your life do you need Jesus to save you from reoccurring sin?