

## Tuesday, November 23

<sup>18</sup> Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly.

1. What do you think this news did to Joseph?
2. Have you ever received news like this before – news that sort of turned your world upside down?
3. What kind of man is Joseph described as being here?
  - A. How do these characteristics come through in his actions?
4. What don't we see Joseph doing that perhaps some men might do?
5. Why do you think God would choose him to be the (step) father of Jesus?
6. What kind of home do you think Joseph's home was to be as a husband and father?
  - A. What kind of atmosphere would be created by this combination of righteousness and compassion?

KTFK: his dreams / have him / broken and / shows why / apart, Joseph / Though his / choose to / part. / God would / were torn / play this / heart was

Song: "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day"

Prayer: "Heavenly Father, we see so much of you in this man, Joseph. The combination of justness and compassion is striking, especially in a situation where he believed he had been wronged so badly. Help us to be more like him that we and all those under our care might derive the blessings of the peace that this kind of living creates. Amen."

## Wednesday, November 24

<sup>18</sup> Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup> But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

1. What does the angel identify is going on inside Joseph at this time?
2. Why might he be afraid to take Mary home as his wife?
3. How does the news that the angel brings address this fear?
4. What will Joseph need to display in order for this news to actually take his fear away?
5. What causes fear in our lives?

6. Has God spoken any words or given any promises related to the things that you worry about?

A. Do you believe him?

KTFK: our fear, / make us / us all / God he / that he / As we / cheer. / trust the / and shows / words of / jump and / takes away / intends to

Song: "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

Prayer: "Lord God, there is so much in life that we fear – even when we know you are the one directing even the most intricate aspects of our lives. Help us to see all that you lead us into as part of your great and good plan to bring us into the fullness of your kingdom one day. Amen."

## Thursday, November 25

<sup>18</sup> Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup> But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." <sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

<sup>23</sup> "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us).

1. In how many different ways does Jesus fulfill the meaning of the name Immanuel?
  - A. Is God still "with us" in both of these ways today?
2. What difference does it make that God is with us in these ways?
  - A. That he is genuinely present here among us?
  - B. That he has joined his divinity to us, in Christ?
3. How do these things affect your outlook on life?
4. What can we do to live in the reality of God's being "with us" each and every day?

KTFK: doubt, for / live with / with us / to cast / is now / joy and / out. / peace and / Let us / fear or / God himself / not with / the worry

Song: "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"

Prayer: "Lord God, I confess that far too often I forget you are with me. And every time I do, it leads me where I should not go. It leads me into compromise with sin and it leads me into fear and worry about what is to come. Thank you that you have joined yourself to me in ways that are eternal and that the good work you have begun in me you will carry on to completion unto the day of Christ Jesus. Amen."

## Friday, November 26

<sup>18</sup> Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup> But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.

<sup>21</sup> She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." <sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

<sup>23</sup> "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us).

<sup>24</sup> When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, <sup>25</sup> but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

1. How difficult do you think it was for Joseph to take this bold action in response to the message that the angel had given him?
2. How long did he wait before doing this?
3. What effect do you think this series of actions had on Mary?
  - A. How did Joseph following God's will for him help Mary in following God's will for her?
4. Do you think that your following God's will for you helps others do the same?
5. What do you think this action "cost" Joseph? (not in terms of money, but in other ways)
6. Does trusting in the promises of God in our lives cost us in certain ways as well?
  - A. Is following God's word to you today costing you in any of these ways?
7. Do you think Joseph later found that the cost he paid in taking these actions was worth it?
  - A. Do you think you will?

KTFK: follow his / his other / soar on / it brings, / might help / commands despite / that we / Let us / eagle's wings. / saints to / the cost

Song: "As With Gladness Men of Old"

Prayer: "Lord God, I thank you for the strength that comes from watching those close to us seek to obediently follow your direction despite the cost. Help me to do this as well, that in doing so I might not only glorify you in my sacrifice, but strengthen others who are seeking to do the same. Amen."

## Saturday, November 27

Read the entire passage again and review the key thoughts from each day. Which did you find most important for you this week?

Nov 26 - Let us / follow his / commands despite / the cost / it brings, / that we / might help / his other / saints to soar on / eagle's wings.

Nov 25 - Let us / live with / joy and / peace and / not with / fear or / doubt, for / God himself / is now / with us to cast / the worry / out.

Nov 24 - As we / trust the / words of / God he / takes away / our fear, / and shows / us all / that he / intends to make us / jump and / cheer.

Nov 23 - Though his / heart was / broken and / his dreams / were torn / apart, Joseph / shows why / God would / choose to / have him / play this / part.

Nov 22 - The mystery / of Christ / is great / and leads / to much / wonder, but / in the / story of / his birth / we do / so without / blunder.

## Family Worship 2021

November 22-27

Advent Week 1

Matthew 1:18-25

Kids and Parents: See if you can unscramble the daily KTFK - Key Thought for Kids (Answers on back page)

## Monday, November 22

<sup>18</sup> Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way.

1. Why is it so important for us to know how the birth of Jesus Christ took place?
2. What questions would we be left with if the Bible didn't tell us the story of his birth?
3. How many important aspects of who Jesus is are revealed to us in the events of his birth? What does it tell us about...
  - A. His divinity?
  - B. His humanity?
  - C. His historicity (that he was an actual historical person)?
  - D. His purpose?
4. What would you say is the most important reason for you that we know how his birth took place?

KTFK: story of / so without / is great / in the / wonder, but / his birth / of Christ / blunder. / The mystery / to much / and leads / we do

Song: "What Child is This?"

Prayer: "Lord God, I thank you for so carefully recounting for us the story of Christ's birth. I praise you for the way in which we see just who he is and just what he was sent to do. Help us to grasp the fullness of his true identity as we make our way through the Christmas season. Amen."