

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Our Mission: Reaching Out to Leaders Who Can Change the World.

December

The Christmas Story

The Uniqueness of Christ

INTRODUCTION

Why do you think the people of Jesus time didn't foresee his arrival properly?

EXPLORATION

Read Matt 1:19-25

Note: The Jewish marriage had three parts: 1) the engagement (often arranged by the parents or a marriage broker), 2) the betrothal (one year when considered "virtually married" but no sex. She lived with her parents until the wedding), 3) the marriage. (They set up housekeeping together). Mary and Joseph were in the second stage so pregnancy was a problem. Usually this resulted in breaking the engagement.

1. How do you think Joseph found out about Mary's "problem?" What would you have done?
2. Why was a "dream" so convincing to Joseph? vs. 20; **Matt 2:12; 13; 19:22**
3. Why is it Joseph's lineage to David important? vs.20 **Lk 2:4**
4. Why did the angel tell Joseph what to name the son? vs. 21 **Lk 2:21-40**

*Note: Jewish custom required the father to name the son, usually after a close relative. **Lk 1:57-64.***

5. Why is Jesus' name significant? vs. 21 **Lk 1:31-33; Jn 3:17**

Note: Jesus is the Greek form of Joshua which means the Lord saves.

6. How does Matthew remind the readers that these events are unique? vv 22-23
7. How did Joseph respond to the remarkable events? vv 24-25 Why?

APPLICATION

How does *your* Christmas reflect the reality of Christ as the fulfillment of prophecy?