



Life Guide

applying God's Word to life

December 22nd, 2019

The Promised Delivered: The Virgin will give birth.

Matthew 1:18-25

¹⁸ This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

²⁰ But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” ²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³ “The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” --which means, “God with us.” ²⁴ When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. ²⁵ But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

1. How many things can you think of that have legitimately only happened once in the history of the world? What happens in this story that has only happened once?

2. Imagine that you were Mary and Joseph. For what reasons would this have been an extremely difficult and confusing situation to be in?
3. Why does the angel address Joseph as the “son of David”? Take a look at the genealogy of Joseph that is listed in Matthew chapter 1. What is the point of listing all this information? See Micah 5:2, 2 Samuel 7:11-16.
4. Take a look at the text from Isaiah 7:1-17. To whom is it that Isaiah first gives the sign of Immanuel? When is this sign ultimately fulfilled?
5. What does the name “Jesus” mean? Why did the angel tell Joseph to give him the name Jesus?
6. Why was it necessary for the Immanuel to be born of a virgin?
7. At Christmas, God comes to be with us. How does this message help you with the troubles you are currently dealing with or will face in the future?