



## *the Gospel of Matthew*

### Matthew 1:18-25 (week of Sept. 14, 2025)

# Life Group Discussion Questions

***“She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” (an angel of the Lord, speaking to Joseph)***

**Starter:** Think about Joseph’s very real and understandable fears. Let’s flip that for fun—what’s one silly or irrational fear you have or had at one time? Any idea where it came from?

### **DIVING DEEPER into God’s Word together**

- Before this week’s message, what was your perception of Joseph’s story? Has your view changed at all after hearing the sermon?
- Was there anything in the message that surprised you or really stood out?
- When he heard that Mary was pregnant, Joseph naturally assumed that she had been unfaithful to him. Yet how did he respond (Matthew 1:18-19)? How did he change his actions after the angel visited him (Matthew 1:20-24)? In what ways is Joseph portrayed as a model disciple (consider Matthew 9:13; 12:7)?
- Read Philippians 2:1-8. Jesus is the perfect example of true surrender. He gave up His rights and chose to obey God completely, embracing humility and suffering even though He didn’t deserve it. How is that different from our usual reaction to unfair treatment? How did Joseph reflect this kind of humility in his own story?

### **APPLYING the truths of the text to our lives**

- One way to know how you’re doing with surrendering to the Spirit is to check your fruit of the Spirit. Read Galatians 5:22-23. How do you see these growing in your life right now? Or, is there lack of evidence of fruit, revealing that more surrender might be needed?
- Joseph still had to obey even after surrendering to God’s plan. How do you discern what God is asking of you? Where do you turn for godly wisdom when it’s not clear?
- What are some areas where people often struggle to fully surrender control? What guidance would you give a friend who keeps taking something back after trying to give it to God?
- If Christianity isn’t a religion but a daily choice, what daily habits, prayers, or reminders have helped you stay surrendered to God’s will?