

Study Hints for Thinking Further
International Bible Lessons
Psalms 89:29-37; Isaiah 9:6-7; Matthew 1:17-25
Sunday, March 9, 2014
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Some Bible study groups or classes can further discussion by asking some or all of the **Five Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further** below. Others may want to send the bulletin size *International Bible Lesson* home with their students for further study in the coming week to encourage continuing Bible study. The *Study Hints for Thinking Further* below are not actually intended to be the answers to the discussion questions. These indeed are “hints” a teacher may use to help students think through and discuss the questions in class.

Five Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further

1. How has God proven that He did not lie to King David? [From Psalms 89:29-37]

God has done what He promised to David through the coming of Jesus Christ and His eternal reign.

2. Which of the four (or seven) names in Isaiah 9:6 mean the most to you personally? Give a reason for your answer. [From Isaiah 9:7-6]

The name given to Jesus as “Everlasting Father” means the most to me personally. I want God to be my Father forever so I can live in His loving presence forever. Since He loves me and saved me, I want Jesus to treat me as a Father so I will learn to do what is right and live pleasing to Him at all times as His loving child.

3. Why was it important for Joseph to be a righteous man?

So he would treat Mary right. So he would do God’s will as soon as he learned God’s will. So he would be a righteous example to Jesus and raise Jesus in a righteous home.

4. Why do you think Joseph might have been afraid to take Mary as his wife?

He might have thought God wanted to raise Jesus in a way that Joseph could not provide. He might have been afraid to get married to Mary until he learned what God wanted him to do.

5. How did Joseph have assurance that Jesus was the Son of God?

He heard the words of Mary, who he knew was righteous, and he learned the words of the angel to her. He learned from Mary about the words of the angel to Zechariah and

the miraculous birth of John the Baptist. He heard the words the angel spoke to him directly. He learned from the angel how the words of the Old Testament prophets foretold the Son who would be born to Mary. He witnessed amazing events that surrounded Jesus' birth in Bethlehem.

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