International Bible Study Commentary
Verse-by-Verse Bible Lessons Thru the Bible
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Matthew 1:18–25 Discussion Questions

Choose 1 or more Questions from each of the five below.

1. Mary conceived Jesus through the Holy Spirit, and Joseph, a just man, sought to avoid putting her to shame (Matthew 1:18–19).

What does Matthew tell us about how Jesus was conceived, and why is this important to understanding who He is?

What does Joseph's concern for Mary reveal about his character when he faced a situation he did not understand?

How can God help us respond with both righteousness and compassion when someone's circumstances trouble or confuse us?

2. An angel told Joseph not to fear taking Mary as his wife, because her child was conceived through the Holy Spirit (Matthew 1:20).

How did the angel's message help Joseph understand what God was doing and what God wanted him to do?

The lesson recalls God's work through Isaiah, David, John, and Elizabeth. How can these biblical accounts strengthen our confidence in God's purposes?

When fear makes obedience difficult, how can studying the Bible, praying, and depending on the Holy Spirit help us follow the Lord?

3. Joseph was to name the child Jesus, because He would save His people from their sins (Matthew 1:21).

What does the angel's explanation of Jesus' name teach us about our deepest need and the purpose of His coming?

How do Jesus' death and resurrection make possible the forgiveness and new life we cannot earn for ourselves?

How can we explain to someone what receiving Jesus and believing in His name mean, as the lesson describes from John 1:12?

4. Jesus' birth fulfilled the Lord's promise through the prophet: the virgin's son would be called Immanuel, meaning "God with us" (Matthew 1:22–23).

What does the fulfillment of this promise reveal about God's faithfulness and His desire to be with us?

The lesson describes Mary looking into her newborn baby's eyes. How does knowing Jesus is fully God and fully man deepen your appreciation of His birth?

How can knowing that God came among us in Jesus strengthen our trust in His love when we face suffering or loneliness?

5. Joseph obeyed the Lord and named the child Jesus. The lesson also explains the mystery Paul described as "Christ in you, the hope of glory" (Matthew 1:24–25; Colossians 1:27).

How did Joseph put his faith into action, and what can we learn from his obedience about responding to God's Word?

What does Christ living within believers through the Holy Spirit add to your understanding of "God with us"?

How can Christ at work within us help us understand Scripture, live for Him each day, and help one another grow toward maturity in Him?