International Bible Study Commentary
Verse-by-Verse Bible Lessons Thru the Bible
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International Bible Lessons
Teaching English as a Foreign Language
Ready-to-Teach Lesson: The Birth of Jesus Christ
Matthew 1:18-25 (English Standard Version)

When Preparation Time Is Short

This lesson has been selected from the complete Teacher Lesson and is ready to use. Begin with the two warm-up questions, read or play Matthew 1:18-25, and continue through the activities in order. The writing task may be assigned as homework.

Teacher Awareness: Betrothal was a binding marriage commitment, which helps explain the reference to divorce. Explain with child as pregnant. Use age-appropriate wording, and keep discussion respectful of students' family experiences.

1) Warm-Up Questions

1. Why are names important to people and families?
2. What does it mean to keep a promise?

2) Vocabulary

Word or Phrase	Meaning	Teacher Prompt
betrothed	Formally pledged to be married.	To whom was Mary betrothed? (v. 18)
angel	A messenger from God.	How did the angel appear to Joseph? (v. 20)
fulfill	Bring about what was promised or spoken.	What did these events fulfill? (v. 22)
Immanuel	A name meaning God with us.	What does Immanuel mean? (v. 23)

3) Bible Text Comprehension

1. From whom was the child Mary was expecting? (vv. 18, 20)
2. Why did Joseph plan to divorce Mary quietly? (v. 19)
3. Why was the child to be named Jesus? (v. 21)
4. What does the name Immanuel mean? (v. 23)

4) Scripture Discussion

1. How did the angel's message change Joseph's understanding and actions?
2. How do the names Jesus and Immanuel help explain who the child is and what He will do?

5) Speaking Practice

1. Retell Matthew 1:18-25 in your own words.
2. Describe Joseph's response to the angel in three sentences.

Language Coaching Tip

Invite complete sentences and correct gently. Model a reason with because: 'Joseph named the child Jesus because the angel commanded him.' Practice retelling with first, then, and finally.

6) Writing Task

Writing

Summarize Matthew 1:18-25 in 6-8 sentences. Complete this in class or as homework.

7) Wrap-Up

Wrap Up

Mary is expecting a child from the Holy Spirit. An angel tells Joseph in a dream to take her as his wife. The child is to be named Jesus because He will save His people from their sins. His birth fulfills the Lord's word through the prophet. Immanuel means God with us. Joseph obeys and names the child Jesus.

Remember: Jesus will save His people from their sins. Immanuel means God with us.

Final Question: How do the names Jesus and Immanuel help us understand why His birth matters?