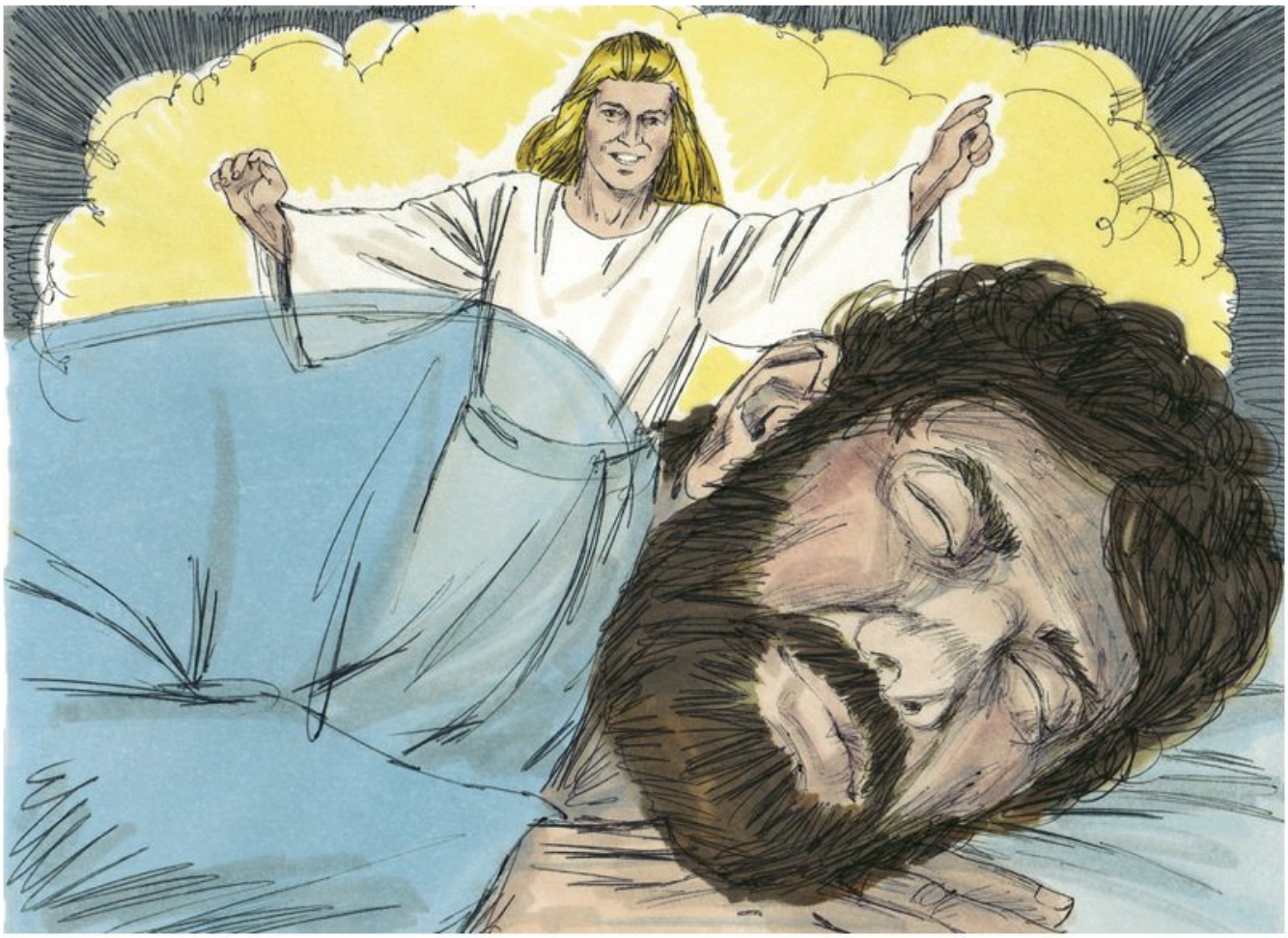
GENESIS TO REVELATION | BIBLE ACCOUNT

Joseph Listens to God's Message

Matthew 1:18-25



YOUR BIBLE READING

Joseph listened to God and treated Mary with care.

Inside: two extended reading pages, a thoughtful reflection, creative activities and a grown-up guide.

AGES 6-10 WITH AN ADULT • 6 COLORFUL A4 PAGES • ENGLISH ONLY

EXTENDED ENGLISH READING • PAGE 1 OF 2

Joseph Faces a Difficult Choice

Matthew 1:18-25



Joseph was pledged to marry Mary. Before they began living together, she was found to be expecting a child. Matthew tells readers from the beginning that the child came through the Holy Spirit. Joseph, however, still needed to receive the message that would explain what was happening. The account places him in a difficult situation without giving us permission to invent accusations he made or conversations he had with other people.

Joseph wanted to do what was right. He also did not want Mary to be publicly shamed. He considered ending their marriage agreement quietly. In that setting, being pledged in marriage was a serious commitment, and ending it was not simply canceling an ordinary plan. The words Matthew uses show Joseph trying to respond with righteousness and compassion together. He was not seeking a way to turn Mary into a public spectacle.

While Joseph was considering these things, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. The angel addressed him as a son of David, connecting his family with the story of Israel's king. He told Joseph not to be afraid to take Mary as his wife. The child within her was from the Holy Spirit. What Joseph needed to understand was being given to him as a specific message from God.

The angel said Mary would bear a son, and Joseph was to name him Jesus. The name was connected with the child's mission: he would save his people from their sins. The message reached beyond a question about Joseph's marriage. It identified the child as the one bringing God's salvation. Joseph was being invited to care for Mary and receive a role in the life of the son she would bear.

Remember: Jesus brings God's saving love close to us.

EXTENDED ENGLISH READING • PAGE 2 OF 2

Waking and Acting on the Message

Matthew 1:18-25



Matthew explains the event by pointing to what God had spoken through a prophet. A virgin would bear a son, and he would be called Immanuel, meaning that God is with us. The explanation helps readers understand the birth as part of God's promise. The child's coming was not an accident outside that story. In this beginning, Matthew joins the names Jesus and Immanuel with rescue and God's presence among his people.

When Joseph woke, he did what the angel had instructed. He took Mary as his wife. The change appears through an action rather than a long speech. The man who had been considering a quiet separation now received her into the marriage. The account does not say that this made every future part of family life easy. It shows that he responded to the particular word that had been given in the dream.

Matthew emphasizes that the child's beginning was the Holy Spirit's work, while Joseph took responsibility for the part he had been given. When Mary bore her son, Joseph gave him the name Jesus, just as he had been told. This naming belongs to his obedient response. The instruction had included both receiving Mary and naming the child, and Matthew records the carrying out of both. Joseph's care took a concrete place in the story.

This short scene ends with the child's name rather than a list of Joseph's feelings. We can respect that quietness. The account has shown his concern for what was right, his desire not to shame Mary, the message he received, and the actions he took afterward. Through those details, the reader sees faithful care become real. God's promised salvation was arriving, and Joseph listened well enough to act on what he had heard.

Pause and think: How could a thoughtful action show care for someone whose situation you do not fully understand?

THINK, NOTICE & GROW

Care That Becomes an Action



Joseph's concern for Mary's dignity matters. Even before the dream, he did not want to shame her publicly. In our lives, we can pause before spreading a story about someone or turning a difficult situation into entertainment. We may not understand everything we hear. Respect includes remembering that the person being discussed has feelings, relationships, and a life larger than the small part we know.

The dream in this passage brought a specific message about Jesus. It does not teach that every dream is a command from God. If a dream or someone's claimed message troubles you, talk with a trusted adult and consider it carefully. No one should use the story to demand that a child keep unsafe secrets or ignore reasonable questions about what is being asked.

Joseph followed the message through ordinary actions: receiving Mary and naming Jesus. Care often becomes visible in practical steps. A kind intention can grow into keeping a promise, making someone welcome, or speaking in a way that protects dignity. These are examples for us today. The story invites us to notice how faithful listening can lead to a considerate next action.

A SMALL STEP FOR TODAY

Joseph's faithful response joined listening to God with practical care for Mary and Jesus.

How could a thoughtful action show care for someone whose situation you do not fully understand?

Read, Remember & Create

Name: _____ Date: _____

1 Think about the reading

1. Why was Joseph troubled?

2. What did Joseph do after the dream?

2 Put the ideas in order

Write 1, 2 and 3 for the order these ideas appear in the reading.

- ☐ Joseph follows the message and names the baby Jesus.
- ☐ Joseph considers a difficult decision.
- ☐ An angel explains God's message in a dream.

3 Draw a meaningful picture

Draw Joseph remembering the angel's message.

Tell someone how your picture connects to the reading.

Read & Grow Together

Read and learn with context

This English edition is designed for ages 6-10 with an adult. Read both extended readings together, or enjoy one each day. Pause at unfamiliar words, invite questions and use the reflection page to connect the story with everyday life. These are retellings and lessons with explanations; read the listed Bible passage for context. Poetry, parables, letters and symbolic visions are identified by type.

Remember this

Jesus brings God's saving love close to us.
Original memory thought, not a direct Bible quotation. Related passage: Matthew 1:21-23

A thoughtful conversation

Joseph and Mary had a binding marriage agreement. Keep explanations age appropriate, and do not teach that every dream is a message from God.

Activity answers

1. Mary was expecting a baby, and he did not yet understand why.
2. He took Mary as his wife and later named her son Jesus.
Sequence boxes, top to bottom: 3, 1, 2. Personal responses and drawings will vary.

Optional prayer

God, guide our choices and help us treat people gently. Amen.

Print and share

Each pack has 6 pages. Print on A4 at Actual Size (100%). The worksheet is page 5. You may print just that page, or use the separate 150-page activity book. The collection contains 150 packs in Bible book order, 15 volumes and one ZIP. Catalog pack IDs stay the same when new readings are added.

Sources and sharing

English retellings, lessons, reflections and activities by DigiPick (2026), based on Matthew 1:18-25. Source checked with the public-domain World English Bible. Illustration © Sweet Publishing; 40_Mt_01_04_RG.jpg. CC BY-SA 3.0. Source: unfoldingWord. Resized proportionally, without cropping.
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