

LIFE GROUPS DISCUSSION GUIDE

GOD WITH US Matthew 1:18–25

December 13, 2020

CONNECT

1. What would those who know you most say that you treasure? Why would they say this?

CELEBRATE

2. Throughout the Old Testament, God promised that the Messiah would come. Matthew loves pointing back to these prophecies. Read Genesis 3:14–15. What is God promising, here? How could the Israelites draw hope from this promise?
3. Read Isaiah 7:14 and Matthew 1:21–23. Nearly 700 years separate the promise from the fulfillment. How do you imagine the people of God felt waiting this long?
4. Read Matthew 1:18–19. What is Joseph's heart posture toward Mary before the angel visits? Does Joseph seem to care more about himself or others? Read Matthew 1:24–25. What kind of heart does Joseph have toward God?
5. Once Joseph realizes the immense treasure God is giving him with Mary and the unborn Jesus, he surrenders everything in his life to care for them. He sacrificed the approval of friends and family, his reputation and his plans for the future. Take a moment to contemplate: Does God ask us to sacrifice good things to have worse things or to sacrifice lesser things to have something greater? If God called you today to sacrifice all that you treasure, why would He do so?
6. Read Matthew 13:44. Does the worker have to weigh the options and convince himself to sell all that he has? What emotion does he experience as he sells off everything he once treasured? Why?
7. Joseph, like the worker in Matthew 13:44, surrenders all he once had in exchange for this new treasure. He could do it only after the angel explained why Mary was pregnant and who the baby was. Likewise, the worker in Matthew 13:44 could only sell off his things once he saw the treasure clearly. What emotions does Jesus spark in your heart when you think of Him? What does this reveal about how clearly you see Jesus? What steps can you take this week to see Jesus more clearly?

CONTRIBUTE

8. Share stories of what Jesus has done in your life. Glorify Him together. Help each other to see Jesus more clearly, as the angel helped Joseph.
9. The angel visited Joseph to show him how God chose him to care for others. Who is God calling you to care for? Are there people in your life whose needs aren't being met, either physically or spiritually? How can your care for them help them to see Jesus more clearly?