

DAILY READING PLAN

Week of December 11, 2022

From Generation to Generation:

We Can Choose A Better Way

Matthew 1:18-25



**PRINCE
OF PEACE**
Called to Connect



Day #1 - Read Matthew 1:17b-20 | *The Birth of Jesus the Messiah. Now, the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.*

How do you imagine Mary and Joseph facing the challenges and joys of the news they received? What must that have been like for them? Each of us has a life story that includes many chapters. Take a few moments and think about the different chapters in your life. Which ones have been most challenging? What did you learn from those chapters? Looking back, how have you seen God at work in your story?

Day #2 - Read Matthew 1:21 | *She will bear a son; you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."*

An angel appeared to Joseph and instructed him to give Jesus the name 'Savior.' What must have been going through Joseph's mind at that time? Grave markers are like book covers, each providing a unique glimpse of the deceased's life. You'll most likely find birth and death dates, relational connection to family members, and perhaps a scripture verse or a word to describe the deceased's life. What would your grave marker communicate about you? If you were to choose a word or two to describe your life, what would they be, and why?

Day #3 - Read Matthew 1:23 | *"A virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us."*

The generative power of God was physically at work in Mary's life. God continues to generate "life and more life" through the people of God everywhere. What are you being called and equipped to generate in your life that brings life to others?

Day #4 - Read Matthew 1:24 | *"When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife..."*

Joseph awoke from his dream and responded in faith. He relied on mentors and models for faithful living in his life. That's just as important for us in our lives. Take some time to identify those who have impacted your life significantly. Who is most responsible for you being on your faith journey? Reach out to them this week and express your gratitude.

Day 5 - Read Matthew 1:2 | *All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet..."*

The fulfillment of scripture reminds us that God has always been active and moving in the word – the living word of Jesus. And even now, God is partnering with you to plant seeds of faith that will bear fruit that will impact the lives of others. What seeds is God planting in your life now? How will you partner with God in the coming days and weeks that will bring blessing to others?