

## Study Notes

### DISCUSSION

1. What is your favorite Christmas tradition?

2. Have you ever had a dream (or a vision) where you think God spoke to you? What did He say? How did you respond?

### BIBLE

3. Read Mt. 2:9-15 and Mt. 2:19-23. Why do so many of our manger scenes get it wrong: baby, parents, animals, shepherds AND the Magi?

What impact do fulfilled prophecies (like the ones noted in vv. 15 and 23) have on your faith?

How would you explain prophecies and their fulfillment to a skeptic?

### APPLICATION

4. What are you currently praying about that will require God to intervene?

5. What is it that God has revealed to you that you've told yourself, "I'll get to that later?" What's been stopping you from taking action?

6. Discuss and pray about next steps for questions #4 and 5.

## The Call of Christmas

*The Story of Joseph: PROTECT*

Sunday Dec. 18, 2016

1. *This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly... (Mt. 1:18-19).*

2. *But after he had considered this (to divorce Mary privately), an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins" (Mt. 1:20-21).*

3. *All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" – which means, "God with us" (Mt. 1:22-23).*

4. *Then Moses went out and spoke these words to all Israel: "I am now a hundred and twenty years old and I am no longer able to lead you. The Lord has said to me, 'You shall not cross the Jordan.' **The Lord your God himself will cross over ahead of you.** He will destroy these nations before you, and you will take possession of their land. Joshua also will cross over ahead of you, as the Lord said. And the Lord will do to them what he did to Sihon and Og, the kings of the Amorites, whom he destroyed along with their land. The Lord will deliver them to you, and you must do to them all that I have commanded you. Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for **the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you**" (Deut. 31:1-6).*

5. **What are you praying about these days that requires God to intervene?**

6. *When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus (Mt. 1:24-25).*

7. Are we putting off a response to God? Have we pushed Him away? Have we delayed our obedience to God in any area of our lives?