

More Than Hearing Worksheet

Episode: AAdvx42016

Text: Matthew 1:18-25

18 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. 19 Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. 20 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. 21 She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' 22 All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

23 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel', which means, 'God is with us.'

24 When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, 25 but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son;* and he named him Jesus.

Primary Expressed Intelligence - {MWD} Math {D2} Self

Eye - , Music - , People - , Self -

Smarts	Images in the text/ interesting exegesis	Illustrations	SFX
Word - Verbal/Linguistic	<p>Vs. 20 - Who else gets called "Son of David?"</p> <p>Righteous man -</p> <p>the preposition `im = "with" comes from the verb `MM which means: (1) "to be hidden" and (2) "to be common or in common".</p>	<p>Like calling someone in the back of the church there, "Mr./Madam President"</p> <p>Joseph understood the Law which made him righteous. "It could also be that Matthew uses Joseph -- a "righteous man" (v. 19) -- as the first indication that what God demands is a righteousness that "exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees" (5:20). Joseph has determined what he</p>	

	<p>God is in common with us.</p>	<p>thinks is "right" to do; but that was not the same as what God had determined was the "right" thing to do." ~Brian Stoffregen, CrossMarks (See also People)</p>	
<p>Eye - Visual/Spatial</p>	<p>Jesus' nativity was unnoticed.</p>	<p>Getting stuck in traffic, not sure if you should keep going or turn around; then getting a text from your spouse telling you about the accident up ahead and which way makes more sense to go.</p> <p>(You're welcome, dear. <3)</p>	<p>Plotting a route on Gmaps or GPS and discovering that the stretch of road you always take because you think it's a shortcut is actually neither the shortest nor fastest route. Project on screen.</p> <p>that subaru Crosstrek commercial where the couple eschew the paved road where they'll end up shopping for khakis and instead take the unpaved hilly road that "could" land them in trouble....</p>
<p>Math - Logical/Mathematical</p>	<p><i>Genealogy again</i></p> <p>The Rules - adulteresses are to be stoned to death. Rules = justice, right?</p> <p>one ongoing battle Jesus has with his opponents is that one can be faithful to the law and not be righteous about it ~Mark Davis</p>	<p><i>the pattern: 3 x 14 Or 6 x 7 where the 7th 7 is about to begin</i></p> <p>Yet his first impulse is not to do this. He says he will deal with her quietly. Quietly break off the engagement. This is paradigmatic shift, and earthquake in in human action. To deal with Mary quietly would have challenged the values of his time. ~George Hermanson</p> <p>And then an angel appears to Joseph to tell him that God is breaking the rules too, right down to the biological law that a woman can only</p>	

		conceive a child with a father. ~Sarah Baker	
Body - Kinesthetic			
Musical		Joseph's Song by Michael Card The Road Not Taken by Robert Frost	Have folks compose haiku poems about Joseph's experience: 5 syllables 7 syllables 5 syllables
Natural			
People - Interpersonal	Our current social reality in this country seems to be characterized by blatant non-presence and fear due to economic uncertainty.	Compare/Contrast Joseph here with King Ahaz in the Isaiah 7 passage, as both receive a similar promise, but one acts in rebellion, the other in obedience. (thanks to Lectionary Lab Live) Like Goofus and Gallant (which we've used before) For where do you think, except from Joseph, that Jesus got the idea that a father always gives good gifts to his children? Where, do you imagine, did he get the image of the father running to welcome home his prodigal son? Where do you think the tenderness in his voice came from when he said we were to address God as 'abba' or 'daddy' if not from his own experience of an earthly dad? ~Janet Hunt, Dancing with the Word	Mary and Joseph aren't merely characters from a stained glass window, but flesh and blood people. And the more we can imagine them as people like us, the more we might imagine ourselves to be people like them. Gather in groups of three and discuss how God choosing to come into the world this way makes a difference to how we understand our lives and the lives of others.
Self - Intrapersonal	<i>The genealogy of Jesus - which is not part of the selection but could be</i>	Have you ever been in a situation where you were deeply disappointed by	<i>If this passage is read, or if this passage is mentioned, encourage folks to take</i>

	<p><i>informative</i></p> <p>Joseph was indeed righteous. But more importantly - he was merciful, faithful, and courageous.</p>	<p>someone's behavior? Has it ever happened that it then turned out the circumstances were not what they appeared to be, and you had to reconsider your disappointment?</p> <p>Joseph's decision had wide reaching impact - he protected Mary and made Jesus' birth possible.</p>	<p><i>their ID's out and look at their names and identifying characteristics inscribed by the state.</i></p> <p><i>Then, have them imagine what identifying characteristic God would put on their ID.</i></p> <p>Who has made a "risky" decision for your benefit?</p> <p>Have you ever decided to follow a path everyone told you would be insane but you just knew was the way to go?</p>
--	---	---	---