

UNEXPECTED BLESSING



The angel inviting Joseph to step into fatherhood.

Luke 1:26-38

The mother of Jesus Christ was Mary. And this is how the birth of Jesus came about. Mary was engaged to marry Joseph. But before they married, she learned that she was going to have a baby. She was pregnant by the power of the Holy Spirit. Mary's husband, Joseph, was a good man. He did not want to disgrace her in public, so he planned to divorce her secretly. While Joseph thought about this, an angel of the Lord came to him in a dream. The angel said, "Joseph, descendant of David, don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife. The baby in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son. You will name the son Jesus. Give him that name because he will save his people from their sins." All this happened to make clear the full meaning of what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will be pregnant. She will have a son, and they will name him Immanuel." This name means "God is with us." When Joseph woke up, he did what the Lord's angel had told him to do. Joseph married Mary. But he did not have intimate relations with her until she gave birth to the son. And Joseph named the son Jesus.

Have you ever found out some bad news and later learned it was actually good news? That's exactly what happened to Joseph. For the past few months, he'd been excitedly preparing for his upcoming wedding. He dreamed of what it would be like to be a husband and a father.

However, something happened that brought his plans to a crashing halt. His lovely, fiancée, Mary, told him that she was pregnant with God's son. She also said that this baby would be the Messiah, the one who saved the world!

At first, Joseph was in shock. He didn't know what to do. After he had time to process everything, he felt very sad. It seemed marriage was not an

option for him and Mary. If people found out that she was pregnant, she could get in a lot of trouble. He wanted to keep her safe, so he decided to secretly end the marriage before anyone found out.

However, a dream from God helped him to see things differently. As he drifted off to sleep, an angel told him that Mary's news was true and that God wanted him to marry her and help raise his son. When Joseph awoke, he was filled with energy and excitement. His future looked a little different than he had planned, but knowing that God was entrusting them with his own son, was amazing! This would be a future that would change not only his life but the history of the world!

Devotional Activity

1. What are some of your dreams for the future?
2. Have you ever invited God into your plans for the future?
3. What would you do if an angel appeared in a dream?