

Small Group Discussion Guide
An Angel Appears to Joseph

Icebreaker:

- What do you know about your parent's courtship?
- Do you know how your parents picked your name? What does your name mean?

It is important to realize that although a Jewish couple were forbidden to have sexual relations during engagement, they were referred to as "*husband and wife*" — their relationship could be broken only by divorce.

Read: Matthew 1:18-25

1. If you had been Mary when she found out she was pregnant, what would be the first thing to pop into your mind?
a) no one will believe me, especially Joseph b) what will people say c) my parents will kick me out d) surely God must know what He is doing e) other
2. If you had been Joseph, her fiancé, what would be the first thing to come into your mind?
a) there must be some other guy b) that's it, we are finished! c) Mary never lied to me before — maybe she is telling the truth now d) other
3. Did these incidents likely strain or strengthen Joseph and Mary's future marriage relationship?
4. When you were growing up, who was your most significant role model?
a) my father b) my mother c) a relative or family friend d) a sports figure e) a teacher or coach f) my pastor or other church later g) other
5. Jesus was called Emanuel — "*God with us.*" How do you feel about viewing Jesus as a role model?
6. When did Jesus become a warm person to you — more than just a name?
7. What difference does following Jesus make in your everyday life?
a) a great deal b) quite a lot c) some d) not a whole lot e) none at all f) other
9. How can this group pray for you today?