

**Joseph**

*Matthew 1.18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. 19 Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. 20 But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. 21 And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." 22 So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: 23 "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us." 24 Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, 25 and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name Jesus.*

\* Why is Joseph included in a series on Mysteries of Christmas?

\* How has Joseph typically been portrayed?

\* How does Matthew portray Joseph?

\* How do we first see Joseph? What is his predicament?

\* How does Joseph show he is a "just man" (vs 19)?

\* What does "just" mean in the Bible? What about "mercy"? How do they relate?

\* How does Joseph compare to Jesus, when he dealt with the woman caught in adultery (John 8.3-11)?

\* What does the angel tell Joseph, and how does Joseph respond?

\* How is Joseph a "new Joseph," reflecting the OT Joseph?

(1)

(2)

(3)

(4)

\* How is Joseph a type of Christ?

(1)

(2)

\* What applications can we make?

(1) We need to ponder the significance of the fact that ...

(2) We should all follow Joseph's example of ...

(3) We should all follow Joseph's example of ...

(4) We should all follow Joseph's example of ...

(5) As men and boys, we should all enroll in ...

– In Joseph, we see a man who was practiced at ...

– We see a man who sought ...

– We see a man who willingly ...

– We see neither a ..., nor a ...

– We see a man who was at once ...

– We see a man who did not ...

\* All of this means that Joseph himself must have had ...

\* Sons don't become ... by ...

\* It takes a ... to nurture and mold a boy into a ...

\* ... is as great a need as there is in the church today.

\* A girl who ... is a ...

\* Children who grow up under a ... are ...

\* Friends of a ... are ...

\* Churches where ... attend are ...