

Heaven meets Earth:

Presence of God

Overarching point: We can learn from the example of Joseph

Key Scripture: Matthew 1:18-25 (NIV)

Key takeaway: The presence of God shapes our behaviour

Introduction:

- > Joseph does not get a starring role in the gospels, but his role was very important.
- > He experienced the presence of God, and this shaped his behaviour.
- > We can learn a lot from his example.

1. Joseph was righteous

- > “Joseph, to whom Mary was engaged, was a righteous man” (Matthew 1:19).
- > There is a sign that says, “Just assume I’m right, it will save time.” That is not what we mean here!
- > Righteous means ‘right standing’ — right by God.
- > When Joseph found out Mary was pregnant during their betrothal, he still acted in a righteous way and sent her away secretly, rather than disgracing her publicly.

2. Joseph was faithful

- > In another translation, Matthew 1:19 says, “Joseph, to whom Mary was engaged, was a faithful man.”
- > Joseph was a faithful man in both action and practice.
- > [See the transcript for an illustration about integrity.]
- > God was about to do amazing things that Joseph had no control over. This is how God can work in the lives of the faithful!

3. Joseph was obedient

- > “When Joseph woke up, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded and took Mary as his wife” (Matthew 1:24).
- > Joseph demonstrated his obedience to God in Matthew 1:19, 24, 25 and 2:14 and 21.
- > Joseph obeyed the revelation from the angel in his dream even when it meant going against what custom said was right.
- > Even in the messiness of life, God is still with us.

Conclusion

- > It does not matter where you’ve come from. Jesus made a way for you to be reconciled with the Father.
- > Invite listeners to accept Christ as Saviour or recommit their lives to God.