



## Week #1: Waiting In Integrity

*This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.*

*But after he had considered 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 home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”*

*All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).*

*When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.*

Matthew 1:18-25 (NIV)

### WAITING IN INTEGRITY LOOKS LIKE:

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*Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet **did not want to expose her to public disgrace**, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.*

Matthew 1:19 (NIV)

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*When [the Magi] had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. “Get up,” he said, “take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.”*

**So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: “Out of Egypt I called my son.”**

Matthew 2:13-14 (NIV)

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**When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord”), and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: “a pair of doves or two young pigeons.”**

Luke 2:22-24 (NIV)

**Coming to his hometown, he began teaching the people in their synagogue, and they were amazed. “Where did this man get this wisdom and these miraculous powers?” they asked. “Isn’t this the carpenter’s son?”**

Matthew 13:54-55 (NIV)

#### **Discussion questions:**

1. How do you think Joseph’s response to the news about Mary would have been received by the people in his community? Do you think he risked his reputation and status by choosing to marry her even though she was already pregnant?
2. What do you think of the ways that Joseph protected both Mary and Jesus? How does that compare with the ways that we think about protecting someone?
3. Jesus was known as “the carpenter’s son”. What kind of relationship do you think Jesus had with Joseph that caused people to think of him in that way?

#### **Recommended resources:**

[Community Church Movement Advent Devotional](#) (Free web/app resource)

[In the Manger: 25 Inspirational Selections for Advent](#), by Max Lucado

[A Long Obedience in the Same Direction: Discipleship in an Instant Society](#), by Eugene H. Peterson

(NIV) New International Version

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#### WAITING IN INTEGRITY LOOKS LIKE:

- **PROTECTION.**

*Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet **did not want to expose her to public disgrace**, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.*

Matthew 1:19 (NIV)

- **OBEDIENCE.**

*When [the Magi] had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up," he said, "take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him."*

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Matthew 2:13-14 (NIV)

- **COMMITMENT.**

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