

# The Unexpected

## Advent Family Discussion Guide

Session Three: The Commitment

Matthew 1:18-25

### Description

Although Jesus had no earthly father, God in his providence included Joseph, Mary's betrothed, in his plans to bring Jesus into the world. Despite his initial discomfort, Joseph's presence brought protection to Mary, who escaped the law's penalty toward unwed mothers. He reminds us that God calls his people to step into roles to exercise leadership and responsibility for His glory.

### How to use

This session is offered for adults on RightNow Media and comes with a companion discussion guide. This guide that you hold is designed for families to discuss as they embrace the hope of Advent this season. Adults and teenage children may benefit from the study session videos. Younger children will likely prefer simply covering the items in this devotional guide. Parents would be wise to preview the videos before showing them to their children.

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What is one activity that you enjoy every Christmas?

How do you feel when you get to take part in that activity?

We experience fun times that bring us joy, but sometimes we face things that make us upset. Joseph was probably upset when he learned Mary was pregnant. He thought she was pretending to be another man's wife, but they were supposed to get married. Joseph honored God by not acting in an angry way, but he had decided he would not be Mary's husband. That would mean Jesus would not have had a daddy on earth and that Mary would have to raise Jesus on her own. God sent an angel to speak to Joseph about God's plan.



Read [Matthew 1:18-25](#) together.

What did Joseph learn about the baby Mary was carrying? (*He was the Messiah, sent by God.*)

How did Joseph respond in verse 24? (He obeyed God's angel and became Mary's husband). Do you think it was difficult for Joseph to do this? Why or why not?

How did Mary and Jesus benefit from Joseph as a husband and father to them?

Is there another family who could use our support this Christmas? How could we help them?

Close in prayer and thank God for the way He always takes care of us.

