

“Hope” Matthew 1:18-25

1. Have you ever practiced observing Advent before? If so, what has that looked like for you in the past?

What is the purpose of Advent? How can you be intentional this Christmas, in order to make the most of this season?

2. We see in verse 18 that Mary was betrothed to Joseph. In that Hebrew culture, marriages were arranged by parents and contracts were negotiated. After the terms were reached, they were considered married and were called husband and wife but they did not yet begin to live together. They still lived at home with their parents to demonstrate their faithfulness to purity. The husband would then go to the home of his bride and in a grand march, lead her back to his home.

During this waiting period of betrothal, what do we learn about Mary (v.18)?

3. Mary had been faithful to Joseph. But Joseph does not yet know of the supernatural nature of the conception of this extraordinary Child by the Holy Spirit. How do you think Joseph was feeling?
4. How do we see Joseph’s love for Mary demonstrated by his actions (v.19)?

What changes Joseph’s mind (v.20)?

5. What does the angel tell Joseph in the dream?

“Joseph, Son of David, _____, to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the _____. She will bear a Son, and they shall call His name _____, for He will _____ His people from their _____.”

6. Read Isaiah 7:14. What do we see that the prophet Isaiah had declared 700 years before the miraculous birth of Jesus? Why is this significant?
7. Why is it important that Jesus was fully human? Why is it important that Jesus was fully God? How should the fact that Jesus is fully God and fully man give us hope?

What challenges are you facing in life right now that require you to place your hope in Christ?