

GIFTED

What Christmas Means for You.



2 “DISCOVERING GOD’S PLAN” – PART 1

Matthew 1:18-25 (NIV) 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.

1. Be _____ about your relationship with _____.

Matthew 1:19 (NIV) ...Joseph her husband was faithful to the law...

Psalm 119:97-98 (NIV) Oh, how I love your law! I meditate on it all day long. Your commands are always with me and make me wiser than my enemies.

Joshua 1:8 (NIV) Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.

How do we know if we’re serious about our relationship with God?

- Pleasing Him is our #1 _____.
- Learning His ways is our _____.
- Acknowledging Him is our consistent _____.
- Paying attention to Him is our consistent _____.

2. Keep a _____.

Matthew 1:19 (NIV) 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.

Proverbs 10:12 (NIV) Hatred stirs up conflict, but love covers over all wrongs.

1 Peter 4:8 (NIV) Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.

Psalms 103:8-12 (NIV) The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever; he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

Hebrews 4:7 (NIV) ...“Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts.”

3. Be _____.

Matthew 1:20 (NIV) 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.”

Psalms 145:8 (NIV) The LORD is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love.

2 Peter 3:9 (NIV) The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

Galatians 5:22 (NIV) But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness.