

Christmas Messengers

Specific Protection through Dreams Message 3

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Outline

... an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. ...

Matthew 2:13 (NLT)

A. Introduction

(Job 33:14-16; Acts 2:17)

B. Messages from dreams...

(Matthew 1:18-25; 2:7-17)

1. Protected _____.

(Matthew 1:18-25. C/R: Psalm 37:23; Proverbs 3:5-6;
James 1:5-6)

2. Prevented threatening _____.

(Matthew 2:1-2,7-12. C/R: Psalm 32:8; Romans 8:31;
Hebrews 13:6)

3. Provided continual _____.

(Matthew 2:13-23. C/R: Psalm 34:19; 91:11; 140:4)

Answers: 1. Jesus 2. information 3. safety

Resource Information: Scripture quotations marked (NLT) are taken from the *Holy Bible*, New Living Translation, copyright © 1996, 2004, 2015 by Tyndale House Foundation. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, a Division of Tyndale House Ministries, Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved. C/R refers to a 'cross reference.' Today's outline and discussion guide are available through the Brookwood Church app.

► Discussion Guide

Use this guide by yourself or with friends to pursue a deeper relationship with Jesus. To connect with others, visit brookwoodchurch.org/adults.

Conversation Starter

What's a favorite dream you've had?

Begin your study with prayer

Pause for a few minutes to quiet your heart and mind. Then ask God for insight and direction as you study and reflect on this week's lesson.

Bible Study and Group Discussion

Read Matthew 1:18-25; 2:13-23

1. God uses ordinary ways, such as dreams, to communicate with us. What's one way that you've heard from God? Did you immediately know it was from God? Explain.
2. God provided specific directions to the wise men and Joseph. Describe a time you followed God's guidance. Describe a time God's guidance was different from your plans. How did you deal with that situation?
3. God gives us revelations and warnings, but sometimes they can be difficult to recognize. What are ways to discern God's voice?
4. The angel told Joseph to take Mary as his wife, which was contrary to societal norms of the time. Have you experienced God directing you to do something others didn't understand? How did you handle it?
5. Describe a time you heard from God, and His message prevented you from doing something harmful or kept you safe from a bad situation. How did you react?

Read Hebrews 11

6. Hebrews 11 can be considered the *Hall of Faith*. Abraham left his homeland, Moses returned to Egypt to lead the Israelites, and Joseph married Mary and became Jesus' earthly father. Describe a time you took a step of faith to follow God's direction.

7. God protected Jesus by using dreams to guide the wise men and Joseph. How does this guidance demonstrate how God cared about His Son and how He cares about us? Do you trust God in all things? Pray and ask God to protect you and your family.
8. The wise men were warned not to return to Herod. Sometimes God tells us to do nothing or the opposite of what we want. Describe a time when you had to hold back in saying or doing something. How did that make you feel? How did it affect the situation?
9. The angel confirmed to Joseph that the baby should be named Jesus, just as Mary had been told. God sometimes provides confirmation through others. Share a time you tried to discern God's message and confirmation came from someone else.

Spiritual Practice

A spiritual practice is something we can do to help us live in and enjoy God's grace. Our hope is that these would become a regular part of your life, so that walking and talking with God is the most natural thing you do.

One way you can grow closer to God is through journaling. This week, spend time journaling about your prayers, favorite scriptures you've read, and how God spoke to you.

Memory Verse

For He will order His angels to protect you wherever you go.

Psalm 91:11 (NLT)

Daily Reading

Day 1: Job 33:14-16

Day 4: Hebrews 13:16

Day 2: Proverbs 3:5-6

Day 5: Psalm 34:19

Day 3: Romans 8:31

Prepare for Christmas Eve

Join us next Saturday, December 24, as we conclude the *Christmas Messengers* series with Candlelight Christmas Eve Services at 2, 3:30 and 5 pm. To prepare, read **Matthew 1:18-24; 2:1-12** and **Luke 1:26-38; 2:1-20**.

