



Winter 2020–2021 Theme:
The Call of God in the New Testament
Unit I: The Beginning of a Call

Lesson Titles:

Called to Participate in a Promise
(Faith Pathway Bible Studies)

Called before Birth
(Townsend Press Sunday School Commentary)

LESSON 2—December 13, 2020

Devotional Reading: Isaiah 42:1-9

Background Scripture: Matthew 1:18-25

Print Passage: Matthew 1:18-25

Key Verse(s):

“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.” (Matthew 1:20b-21, NIV)

• • • • •

Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins. (Matthew 1:20b-21, KJV)

► Questions to Consider:

1. What was unique about the conception of Jesus' birth?
2. What did the angel reveal to Joseph?

► Lesson Aims:

As a result of experiencing this lesson, you should be able to do these things:

- Remember the story of the angel's announcement to Joseph of Jesus' birth.
- Rejoice that the birth of Jesus fulfilled God's promise to be with His people.
- Live with greater awareness of God's abiding presence.

► Lesson Context:

Matthew gives an account and description on how the birth of Jesus came about.

► Lesson Outlines/Key Points:

I. **Destined to Save from Birth (Matthew 1:18-21)**

Key Point 1: Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit while Mary was engaged to Joseph.

Key Point 2: As Joseph pondered the best course of action, “an angel of the Lord” appeared, telling him to proceed with the marriage without **fear**, and explaining that Mary's child was conceived by the Holy Spirit.

II. Destined to Be with Us from Birth (Matthew 1:22-25)

Key Point 1: The birth of Jesus was the eagerly anticipated fulfillment of ancient prophecy.

Key Point 2: Joseph took Mary as his wife and accepted and completed the assignment God had given him.

► Lesson Summary:

- Even though the task to which God **called** Mary and Joseph would be controversial and difficult, they were willing to do whatever God asked of them.
- If God has called us to a task, He will certainly provide the ability and provision to get it done. It may not be easy, but it will never be impossible.

What Do You Think? (These questions are found in this week's Faith Pathway student book.)

1. Has God ever called you to do something that challenged traditional norms and popular opinion?

2. Have you ever refused to complete a spiritual task because you focused more on your own inability rather than trusting God's presence with you?

As a result of this lesson, I will do the following:
