

For houseChurch material:

**1. Have different readers read the Bible passage from 2 or more different translations. Better yet, assign participants to do the reading of each character in a dramatic and narrative fashion.**

**2. Reflect & meditate between each reading**

**3. Scripture**

Matthew 1:18-25

18 This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about[a]: 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. 19 Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet[b] did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

20 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. 21 She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus,[c] because he will save his people from their sins."

22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 23 "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"[d] (which means "God with us").

24 When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. 25 But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

Luke 2:1-7

1 In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. 2 (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) 3 And everyone went to their own town to register.

4 So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. 5 He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. 6 While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, 7 and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

**4. Application**

1. What did you hear during the reading? What did the Holy Spirit say to you?

2. What do you think and how do you feel about what the Holy Spirit said?  
How do you feel comforted, convicted & challenged from the reading?

3. What does the Holy Spirit want you to do now?

4. Share any of the above discoveries with your houseChurch. Ask each other, "What is your nugget?"

5. Discussion Questions

- How do you suppose Mary felt when the angel told her that she will be pregnant out of wedlock? What were the ramifications for her if she went through with it?
- Was her obedience based on angel's persuasion or what was written in the Word of the Lord?
- How do you suppose Joseph felt when he found out his wife was pregnant, not by him?

- What were the ramifications for him if he took her in as his wife, as the angel told him?
- Why did he change his mind in regards to divorcing her? Was it because of the angel or the Word of the Lord concerning the prophecies of the Messiah?
- Mary and Joseph put their trust in the Word of the Lord concerning His promises and fulfillment of the Messiah. They also recognized that their obedience would result in unimaginable consequences personally. Are you willing to put your trust in the Word of the LORD regarding your immediate circumstances? And if you were to be obedient, what will it cost you?

**Now talk to Jesus...**