



# TRANSFORMED

DEVOTIONS CONNECTING TEENS TO CHRIST

**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.**

*Matthew 1:18-25*

## **Jesus is a sign from God**

Very little is known about Joseph, the one pledged to be married to Mary, the earthly mother of Jesus. What we do know about him shows that his life was pretty chaotic. Joseph's fiancé was pregnant, and it's not his. He's a godly man and doesn't want to shame her, so he's ready to quietly call off the marriage. God, however, has an angel appear to him in a dream to assure him everything was on the “up and up” and that the baby she was going to give birth to was the Savior of the world. Wow.

Do you ever feel like life is spinning out of control? Even as we take time this week to celebrate the birth of the Christ Child, there is still a lot to do and places to go and people to visit and things to finish, etc... etc... etc... The angel who appeared to Joseph, though, assured him that everything was under control. He even pointed Joseph to the Old Testament prophecies which announced, “‘The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel’ (which means, ‘God with us’)” (Matthew 1:23). Jesus is a sign of God's love for mankind. Not only that, but Jesus is the peak of God's love for mankind.

There is a passage from the Psalms in which God says, “Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth”(Psalm 46:10). Take time out as you celebrate Christmas to truly “be still.” Tune out the craziness in your life. Turn off the TV and put away the cell phone. Simply celebrate the truth that the virgin did give birth to a son. And this Son is your Savior.

**Prayer: Heavenly Father, What a reason to celebrate I have in the birth of your Son, Jesus the Christ. Thank you for this gift. Thank you for his love. Thank you for revealing him to me every time I open your holy Word and marvel at your goodness and grace. This Christmas and always, I cherish who you have declared me to be and marvel at the eternity which awaits me in heaven. Amen.**