

1. Have you ever had someone drop an emotional bombshell on you that was completely unexpected? How did you handle it? What made it hard to respond to appropriately?
2. Read Matthew 1:18. Why was it so significant for Joseph that Mary was found to be with child? How would most people react in that situation?
3. Read Matthew 1:19. How does Joseph's response indicate his character? How else could he have responded and still maintained his own social and legal status? Why do you think he chose to respond as he did?
4. Read Matthew 1:20. What command does the angel make to Joseph. What assurance does the angel give him?
5. Read Matthew 1:21–23. What motivation does the angel provide Joseph for following through on his imperative? Why would the connection to Isaiah 7:14 (read it) have been particularly motivating to Joseph?
6. Read Matthew 1:24–25. How does Joseph respond? How is his response a model for us to follow when crisis comes?
7. If you're experiencing crisis, ask the Lord to help you to hear him clearly, accept what he's teaching you, wait for his timing, and engage with his mission, even as you wait.
8. If you aren't experiencing crisis, ask God to prepare you for the time when you will.