



**December 23, 2018**

**Matthew 1:18-25**

*Use this resource at home to guide your household's daily devotions.*



**Pray:** Light a candle. Open your devotion with prayer.

God, your servant Joseph remained obedient despite challenges and uncertainty. Give us his steady trust in the unfolding of your plan for us, that we might be found your faithful servants, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Emmanuel. Amen.



**Read:** Read the key verse from Sunday's reading.

*When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife. (Matthew 1:24)*



**Reflect:** Reflect on the scripture summary.

Joseph's life is going just according to plan. He's made a fine engagement to a girl from a good family. But now she's got some surprising news for her husband-to-be. How is an honorable man supposed to respond?



**Connect:** Connect in conversation with others in your household or community.

What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?

How does God work through the marginalized in your community? Is their message or service received differently because they are different?

How does Immanuel show up in your life?

For the littles: What's been the greatest surprise of this Christmas season so far? God loves surprises!



**Bless:** Close your devotion with a blessing. May God surprise you with joy! Amen.



**Do:** By acting on what we learn, we make God's word come alive. Do the following activity this week.

**Gather your entire household together for a low-stress meal (other than your planned holiday meal). If you live alone, invite a friend over. Set aside and inform the household of a period of time you will be together so that you are not rushed. Set the table. Use your best dishes. Light candles (unless you have young kids). Say grace. No electronics at the table. Talk to each other. Linger over dessert. Slow down. Enjoy the time together.**



**Go Deeper:** Go to [clergystuff.com/daily-devotions](http://clergystuff.com/daily-devotions) for devotions on the daily readings.

Monday, Luke 2:1-14, [15-20], *Birth of Jesus*

Tuesday, Luke 2:8-20, *Shepherds Visit*

Wednesday, Genesis 15:1-21, *God's Covenant with Abram*

Thursday, Isaiah 7:10-17, *A Sign of Immanuel*

Friday, Isaiah 7:18-25, *A Sign of Immanuel*

Saturday, Acts 13:38-39, *Jesus Frees*

**Next Week, Matthew 1:1-17, *God's Promise Fulfilled***