

Dear parents,

Our students are continuing their study of characters from the very first Christmas, as recorded in the Bible. This week, we looked at the life of Joseph, an ordinary carpenter who became the earthly father of Jesus.

We focused on Matthew 1, where we found Joseph engaged to be married to Mary. When he learned of her pregnancy, his first reaction was, by all expected standards, the right one: He planned to follow the law and divorce her. He also chose kindness; he intended to act quietly to avoid humiliating Mary. But then an angel came to him in his dreams and told him God's plans. We saw what happened when he obeyed.

I'd encourage you to talk with your teenager this week about the life of Joseph. Consider using these questions to generate some conversation:

- How do you feel about what God is doing in your life right now? Do you feel like you are following God's plan or your plan?
- How can we encourage you to obey God and the plans God has for you?

It's our prayer that our students would follow Joseph's standard and lead lives of kindness and obedience.

Have an awesome week!

Drew and the Small Group Leaders