

¹⁸ 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.

¹⁹ 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.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, because he will save his people from their sins."

Questions:

1. The words of the angel that appeared to Joseph tell us about Jesus' mission. In vs. 21, what is central to Jesus' mission and how do we know this? Why is Jesus' mission necessary? (Genesis 3:1-24) What does this mission say about who God is? What does this mission say about who we are?
2. What do we learn about Jesus' identity from the angel's words in vs. 20 & 21?
3. Why is Jesus' divinity essential to fulfill His mission?
4. Why was Jesus' humanity also essential to fulfill His mission? (Hebrews 2:14-18)
5. How do you respond to the fact that we need rescuing and Jesus is the only One who can save us?