

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

-Matthew 1:18-21



**Remember how Mary and Joseph were betrothed? Well, when Joseph found out Mary was pregnant, he did not understand how she could be pregnant when they had not come together as husband and wife yet. So instead of raising this baby that did not belong to him, or accusing her of being unfaithful to him and getting her in trouble with the law, he decided to quietly divorce her, which would end their marriage agreement.**

**But the story doesn't end there!**

**On this eighth day of Advent we see how the Lord provides! For Joseph, He provides confirmation that the baby in Mary's womb was from the Holy Spirit, and that He was Jesus their Messiah. For Mary, He provides a husband who will know she was faithful to him and will care for her as a loving husband. For Jesus, He provides an earthly father to raise Him with honor and love. For all of us, He provides evidence through this fulfilled prophecy that His Word is true and trustworthy! Even when things don't make sense right away, we can trust that all of God's prophecies will also be fulfilled.**

**Has the Lord provided something for you or your family that's pretty amazing? Take turns sharing something the Lord provided for you that you're grateful for!**



**Help Joseph navigate the maze to find Mary and tell her about the dream the Lord gave to Him and what the angel revealed to him.**

