

A Season of Sacrifice

Part 1: Joseph & Mary

Matthew 1:18-21, 24-25

Launch

What three words best describe the Christmas season in American culture?

Explore

Read the passage

Why would Joseph calling off the engagement have disgraced Mary? What did Joseph's obedience to God cost him?

What kind of sacrifices did Mary and Joseph make by welcoming Jesus into their family? Can you think of some biblical examples? (If you're struggling to think of something, look up Luke 2:41-49.)

Read Psalm 68:6 & Ephesians 2:19. Why is family so important to God?

Apply

If you are a parent: What are the things in your children's lives that make you the most worried? What do you find yourself praying the most for your kids?

If you are not a parent: When you were growing up, what were your parents the most stressed about in your life?

What kind of sacrifices did your parents make for you?

What has it meant to you to be part of God's family? How has your spiritual family enhanced your relationship with Jesus?

What would it look like for you to make sacrifices to include others in your family this Christmas? Who can you invite to church or to other Christmas gatherings?

Pray

Pray that God would make us aware of people who need to be included in our family this Christmas season. And pray that we'd be obedient to God's call to sacrifice.