## The Christmas Story - the birth of Jesus (Matt 1:18-25) 1. Did you notice that the angel told Joseph of a prophecy? What does prophecy mean? What is a Messianic prophecy??

## The Christmas Story - the birth of Jesus (Matt 1:18-25) Teacher Notes

Video Abstract (Author: Max7.org): A short narration of the lead-up to Jesus' birth from Matthew 1:18-25. It is suitable for children from about 4 years of age.

For the teacher's preparation, this is the passage for study:

These are the facts concerning the birth of Jesus Christ: His mother, Mary, was engaged to be married to Joseph. But while she was still a virgin she became pregnant by the Holy Spirit. Then Joseph, her fiancé, being a man of stern principle, decided to break the engagement but to do it quietly, as he didn't want to publicly disgrace her.

As he lay awake considering this, he fell into a dream, and saw an angel standing beside him. "Joseph, son of David," the angel said, "don't hesitate to take Mary as your wife! For the child within her has been conceived by the Holy Spirit. And she will have a Son, and you shall name him Jesus (meaning 'Savior'), for he will save his people from their sins. This will fulfill God's message through his prophets—

'Listen! The virgin shall conceive a child! She shall give birth to a Son, and he shall be called "Emmanuel" (meaning "God is with us")."

When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel commanded and brought Mary home to be his wife, but she remained a virgin until her Son was born; and Joseph named him "Jesus." (Matt 1:18-25, TLB)

Show the video.

1. Did you notice that the angel told Joseph of a prophecy? What does prophecy mean? What is a Messianic prophecy??

After posing question #1, inform the student: I want to show you something.

- a) on the video, by the 3 vertical dots, resent the playback speed to 25 seconds.
- b) move the video cursor to the image of the scroll.

Explain to the student: see that scroll? The Bible back then wasn't a book; it was a big scroll!

c) play video of just the scroll unrolling. Have fun with the slow motion.

Explain to the student: a long time ago, a prophet said something will happen in the future. When the prophecy is about Jesus, it's called a Messianic prophecy. Can you say "MESSY ANNIC" with me?

This prophet said Jesus would be born to a virgin 700 years in the future!! That's like your great-gre

And then an angel tells your dad, when your mom is pregnant, that a great-grea

d) play the video at slow motion of just the prophet Isaiah.

Inform the student: the prophet who wrote about Jesus was named Isaiah (Isa 7:14).

e) replay the whole video at normal speed.