

Week 2: Love

Joseph's Story

Hi, my name is Joseph. You may have heard of me. My wife, Mary, was the mother of God's Son. That made me Jesus' earthly father. But I'm getting ahead of myself. I want to tell you about something that happened before Jesus was born.

Mary and I were engaged, but we weren't married yet. Mary told me she was pregnant. I knew I wasn't the baby's father and since we were engaged, the law said I was allowed to make a big deal out of this and disgrace Mary publicly. That didn't seem right to me and I wanted to be kind to Mary, so I decided I would break off our engagement quietly.

Before I could break up with Mary, I had an amazing dream. In my dream, an angel named Gabriel brought me a message from God. Gabriel told me, "Joseph, son of David,"—you see, I am a descendant of King David—"don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife. The baby she is carrying is God's Son. When he is born, name him *Jesus*."

Long before Gabriel appeared to me in a dream, the prophet Isaiah had said a young woman would have a son and he would be named *Emmanuel* which means, "God with us." The birth of Mary's baby would fulfill this prophecy.

After I woke up, I decided to do what God had told me to do. After all, I trusted God. I didn't break off my engagement to Mary, and she became my wife.

(Based on Matthew 1:18-24.)

