

NO AVERAGE JOE

Joseph—the chosen father

His character

- Truth and righteous

*“Because Joseph her husband was a **righteous man** . . .” Matthew 1:19 NIV*

- Gracious and kind

*“Joseph, her fiancé, was a good man and **did not want to disgrace her publicly**, so he decided to break the engagement quietly.” Matthew 1:19*

His faith

- Mary’s child is God’s son

“As he considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. ‘Joseph, son of David,’ the angel said, ‘do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For the child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit.’” Matthew 1:20

- Jesus—the Savior to our rescue

“And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” Matthew 1:21

- Immanuel—God with us

“Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means ‘God is with us.’” Matthew 1:23

- Courageous faith

“When Joseph woke up, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded and took Mary as his wife. But he did not have sexual relations with her until her son was born. And Joseph named him Jesus.” Matthew 1:24-25

God has chosen you . . . where does God want you to be
a more Joseph-like leader in your family?

The message of Christmas

- Jesus—the Savior to our rescue

“But when the right time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, subject to the law. God sent him to buy freedom for us who were slaves to the law, so that he could adopt us as his very own children.” Galatians 4:4-5

“God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him.” 1 John 4:9

- Jesus came for me

“Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means ‘God is with us.’” Matthew 1:23

Remembering the message

- Bread—Incarnation . . . Christmas

“He took some bread and gave thanks to God for it. Then he broke it in pieces and gave it to the disciples, saying, ‘This is my body, which is given for you. Do this to remember me.’” Luke 22:19

- Cup—the Cross . . . Easter

“After supper he took another cup of wine and said, ‘This cup is the new covenant between God and his people—an agreement confirmed with my blood, which is poured out as a sacrifice for you.’” Luke 22:20

Believing and receiving the message

“If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by confessing with your mouth that you are saved.” Romans 10:9-10

John Stott’s Daily Reflections—pages 141-150

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