

Mary and Joseph

Husband Wife Interactions

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What We Will Learn

- Marital commitment founded on love and Spiritual obedience
 - Mary's interaction with Angel Gabriel
 - Joseph's response to Mary being pregnant
- Unity in parenting
 - Flight to Egypt and return to Israel
 - Participation in annual Passover Festival
- Luke 1 and 2
- Matthew 1 and 2

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Angel Gabriel Visits Mary

- Angel made the announcement
- Mary requested human understanding
- Angel explained it will happen by faith of God
- Mary accepted wholeheartedly
- Submitted her concerns to God
 - Concerns for herself
 - For her fiancé and community
- Luke 1:26–38

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Luke 1 (NKJV)

26 Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth,

27 to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary.

28 And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!"

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Luke 1 (NKJV)

29 But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was.

30 Then the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.

31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus.

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Luke 1 (NKJV)

32 He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David.

33 And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.”

34 Then Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I do not know a man?”

Luke 1 (NKJV)

35 And the angel answered and said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.

36 Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren.

Luke 1 (NKJV)

37 For with God nothing will be impossible.”

38 Then Mary said, “Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

- In loyalty to human commitment, she asked for human understanding
- In obedience to God, she submitted to His will

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Joseph's Response

- His fiancée was pregnant without him
- In obedience to the law, he will divorce her
- Because he loved her, he will do it quietly
- In obedience to God
 - He dropped the idea of divorce
 - Took her home as his wife
 - Accepted to be earthly father of Son of God
- Matthew 1:18–21 and 24–25

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Matthew 1 (NIV)

18 This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit.

19 Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

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Matthew 1 (NIV)

20 But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.

21 She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

Matthew 1 (NIV)

24 When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife.

25 But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

God's Intervention in Mary-Joseph Interaction

- Explained Mary's pregnancy to Joseph
- Explained Joseph's relationship with Jesus
- Fulfilled Mary's expectation in her obedience and resignation to God
- Love and commitment to their relationship prepared them for God's intervention

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Unity in Parenting: Flight to Egypt and Back

- On three occasions
- Joseph received instruction from God
- Regarding protection for child and family
- Joseph led family through implementation
- Husband and wife were united in parenting
- Matthew 2:13–15 and 19–23

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Matthew 2 (NKJV)

13 Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, “Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him.”

Matthew 2 (NKJV)

14 When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt,

15 and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, “*Out of Egypt I called My Son.*”

Matthew 2 (NKJV)

19 Now when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt,

20 saying, “Arise, take the young Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the young Child's life are dead.”

21 Then he arose, took the young Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel.

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Matthew 2 (NKJV)

22 But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea instead of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And being warned by God in a dream, he turned aside into the region of Galilee.

23 And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, “He shall be called a Nazarene.”

Husband-Wife Interactions In Flight to Egypt and Back

- Instruction came to Joseph each time
- Joseph communicated instruction to Mary
 - Joseph responsible to lead family
 - Mary responsible to follow (and assist) Joseph's leadership
- Joseph and Mary worked in unity to implement the instruction

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Unity in Parenting: Participation in Passover

- Took child to Jerusalem annually
- To participate in Feast of Passover
- Allowed child to mingle and interact freely with friends and relations
 - During the celebrations
 - And long trek to Jerusalem and back
- Luke 2:41–50

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Luke 2 (NKJV)

41 His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover.

42 And when He was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem according to the custom of the feast.

43 When they had finished the days, as they returned, the Boy Jesus lingered behind in Jerusalem. And Joseph and His mother did not know it;

Luke 2 (NKJV)

44 but supposing Him to have been in the company, they went a day's journey, and sought Him among their relatives and acquaintances.

45 So when they did not find Him, they returned to Jerusalem, seeking Him.

Luke 2 (NKJV)

46 Now so it was that after three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions.

47 And all who heard Him were astonished at His understanding and answers.

Luke 2 (NKJV)

48 So when they saw Him, they were amazed; and His mother said to Him, “Son, why have You done this to us? Look, Your father and I have sought You anxiously.”

49 And He said to them, “Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?”

50 But they did not understand the statement which He spoke to them.

Twelve Years of Passover

- Family visited Jerusalem annually
 - Exposed child to Passover experience
 - Persistent opportunity to learn history, practice, and meaning of Passover Festival
- Child mingled freely among friends and relations [See account of his 12th festival]
- Conveyed message of unity in parenting through interactions with the child

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What We Learned

- Love and commitment in marital relationship
- Seeking spouse's understanding
 - Human responsibility
 - God's intervention
- Husband's leadership in family affairs
- Wife's responsibility to follow (and assist) husband's leadership
- Unity in parenting

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