



1. PUTTING GOD FIRST (Joseph) Matthew 1.18-24



Key Points :

What are you hoping and praying for? Where is God at work?

God is always on the move, even when we can't see or struggle to believe.

Like Joseph we can prepare for what God is going to do by prioritising Him, by putting God first.

Joseph puts God first when he decides to do as God commands through the angel by going through with his marriage to Mary despite the fact that she's pregnant already. He cares more about what God thinks than what anyone else thinks.

Preparing for God to move means 1. **Looking for God moving, even in the mess** and 2. **Putting God first**

Questions:

Conversation Starter

1. Have you ever been in a situation where you felt really underprepared? (Like Jon shared that he is with Christmas this year!)

Start thinking

2. Why do you think that Joseph wanted to "*break the engagement quietly*"[v.19]? How does this link to Joseph being a "*righteous man*"[v.19]?

Start sharing

3. If God appeared to you in a dream, how ready would you be to change your mind about something?

4. What are the things or people in your life that compete for your attention and prioritisation? Where do you find 'putting God first' most difficult?

5. Have you ever tried to look for God at work, even when things were messy? What happened?

Start praying

6. Father God, You invite us to have a deep and intimate relationship with You, and right now we want to say 'yes' to that by inviting You in to every area of our lives. We're sorry for where You've not been our top priority and we pray that You would teach us to do that more and more each day. Prepare us for what You're doing. Amen.

Start doing

7. Set an alarm (either on your phone or a watch) for the same time, each day this week. When the alarm goes off, stop what you're doing (unless it's dangerous to stop!!) and spend some time resetting your priorities: **Pray** & ask God to speak and to show you where He's at work; **Read** a portion of Scripture; or **Worship** Him with a song. Next week, share how you've found the process.