

★ THE CHRISTMAS PLEDGE

1. To remember those people who truly need my gifts.
2. To express my love for family and friends in more direct ways than presents.
3. To rededicate myself to the spiritual growth of my family.
4. To examine my holiday activities in light of the true meaning of Christmas.
5. To initiate an act of peacemaking within my circle of family and friends.

THANKS
ADRIAN...

for adding value to each one of us at JCC during your short stay here. You have jumped in and **worked** with different teams since your arrival. We will miss you!

KIDS CLUB & YOUTH GROUP

Free Kid's Club & Youth Group

6:00 – 8:00 P.M.

The 2nd and 4th Thursday of every month.
Open to everyone Pre-K through High School.

Games, activities, lessons, crafts, snacks & more.

NEXT SESSION: THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14



MOUNTAIN CLIMBERS

Teaching that informs, equips, and empowers!

**2ND AND 4TH THURSDAY
OF EVERY MONTH 6:00 – 8:00 P.M.**

**NEXT SESSION:
THURSDAY,
DECEMBER 14**

CHRISTMAS TOGETHER

Dec 03 » Together for Purpose
 Dec 10 » Together for Support
 Dec 17 » Together for Glory
 Dec 24 » Wrapped Up in Love

WHEN LIFE IS TEARING THINGS APART, JESUS IS BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER.

Prayer REQUESTS

▶ SALVATION

- Walter Miner III Gearen Family Tom M. Stein Family
 Ryan K. Tyler M. Mandy W. Dave. O

▶ HEALTH ISSUES

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art B. » Health Issues | <input type="checkbox"/> Kevin K. » Health Issues |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Armando » Back Issues | <input type="checkbox"/> Angela A. » Health Issues |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Karla D. » Cancer Recovery | <input type="checkbox"/> Michelle H. » Leukemia |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mandy W. » Cancer | <input type="checkbox"/> Janschek » Family Grief |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Maggie B. » Chemotherapy | <input type="checkbox"/> Jonathan H. » Viral Meningitis |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Merle » Health Issues | <input type="checkbox"/> Lucille S. » Health Issues |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Carlos V. » Health Issues | <input type="checkbox"/> Bill L. » Health Issues |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Angie & Family » Life Issues | <input type="checkbox"/> Kim » Family Issues |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Samantha B. » Health Issues | <input type="checkbox"/> Laura S. » Health Issues |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bob A. Healing/Kidney | <input type="checkbox"/> Augustin A. » Sobriety |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Camilia S. » Cancer/Leg | <input type="checkbox"/> Hector S. » Job Issues |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Robert G. » Health Issues | |

METRICS THAT MATTER (11/26/23)

ATTENDANCE ▶ 32 GIVING ▶ \$1,271 GUESTS ▶ 0
 VOLUNTEERS ▶ 15 DECISIONS FOR CHRIST ▶ 0

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly.



BETROTHAL: The Jewish custom called kiddushin.

A young man and his fiancée would get legally married, but they had to wait a year before they were allowed to live or sleep together.



- One of the reasons was to make sure the girl was pure.
- In those days marriages were arranged.
- During the betrothal, you were considered married.
- You think—that's it...God's plans for me are over.



A SURPRISE BABY

During the betrothal, Mary shows up pregnant.

Joseph didn't believe her: "Right the Holy Ghost got you pregnant!" He was considering breaking the betrothal quietly:



But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus. Matthew 1:20-25



THIS RUINED BOTH THEIR REPUTATIONS!



Mary did not get the storybook wedding she hoped for. From that point on, Mary was thought of as impure.

FOLOWING JESUS IS NOT EASY!

What following Jesus looks like...

1

Trust and absolute obedience



Joseph had to believe the impossible and risk everything on it.

2

Acceptance of a sentence of death



Mary's out-of-wedlock pregnancy put her under a literal death sentence in Jewish law. Mary and Joseph had to die to their good name, their cherished dreams; their families and their homelands.

3

Self-denial

Vs. 25 tells you that Joseph didn't "know" Mary (or have sex with her) until after the birth of Jesus. If you are going to follow Jesus you have to consent to do things his way.

4

Willingness to embrace inconvenience



Do you realize how much Jesus' birth complicated Joseph's life? Messed up his relationships with his family; his friends; his job. Eventually he had to move and start over.