

BIG IDEA

A sacrifice without a cost is never a sacrifice.

WHAT DOES GOD WANT ME TO KNOW?

Describe a time in your life when you had to sacrifice something you loved for the good of someone else. What did it feel like? What was the result of the sacrificial act?

Read Matthew 1:18-24. Using your imagination, describe what is happening in these verses with your own words. What stands out to you?

What kind of thoughts are going through Joseph's head when he finds out that Mary is pregnant?

What costs were associated with Joseph's decision to stay with Mary? How does Joseph demonstrate **Romans 1:17** with his life?

Read Matthew 1:19 again. Develop a theory as to why Joseph would have divorced Mary privately instead of publically (go deeper than "because he was righteous").

WHAT IS MY INITIAL REACTION?

In your opinion, what do all heroes have in common? Where do you see these traits in Joseph's life?

Read Matthew 2:13-15. Notice Joseph's reaction to the angel's message, do you see a pattern in Joseph's behavior? What is the pattern and how can you demonstrate that same pattern in your life today?

How do you think Joseph's character and integrity affected the upbringing and training of Jesus?

WHAT AM I GOING TO DO?

Who in your life needs a hero right now?

What can you do to be the hero that person needs this Christmas?

Make a list of 5 heroic actions you and your Life Group could work on this week.

