

You shall name him Jesus: Matthew 1: 18-25

1. **Start by imagining** what Joseph must have felt when he heard the news that Mary was pregnant? How do you think he felt? How would you have felt in his place? Then do the same thing regarding Mary, this time asking what you think it was like for her in this situation?

2. **In Jewish culture**, marriage reflected God's covenant with the Israelites. What can be learnt from reflecting on marriage being a covenant of this kind? Read Isaiah 62.5; Isaiah 54.5; I Kings 8:23; 2 Kings 17.35; 2 Chronicles 6.14; Ezra 3.11; Psalm 98.3;

3. **Obedience:** Quotation: "*Whose service is perfect freedom.*" What is the relationship between service and freedom? What do we learn from Joseph's obedience?

4. **God with Us.** In what ways is God with you? How do you recognize his voice? How does God's presence with you differ when you face challenges in life?

5. **Jesus' name** meant The Lord saves. If you were able to give a meaning to your name, what would it be? Your name should define the destiny you believe God has called you to. Take a few moments to think carefully what your name would mean. It should be a short phrase that defines you.