

# Youth Teaching Resources

December 18, 2016



## Season of Advent

(November 27-December 25)

Psalm 122 – “Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem”

Matthew 3:1-12 – “Starving for Hope”

Matthew 11:2-11 – “The Real McCoy”

**Matthew 1:18-25 – “The Invisible Man”**

## Season of Christmas

(December 25 – January 1)

Titus 3:4-7 – “Why Christmas Matters”

[www.nurturingfaith.net](http://www.nurturingfaith.net)

Subscribe to *Nurturing Faith* to access the core Bible content for this lesson. Find links and videos related to this lesson.

# The Invisible Man

Matthew 1:18-25

## YOUTH Teaching Guide

by Jeremy Colliver

This youth teaching outline is designed to support THE BIBLE LESSON by Tony Cartlege, printed in *Baptists Today*. You can subscribe to either the digital or print edition of *Baptists Today* to access the lessons. Please also ensure that each person in your class has a copy of *Baptists Today* so they can prepare before the lesson.

## PARENT PREP

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There are times that our youth feel invisible. They don't feel like they fit in to this group or that one. They try and fit in and still are excluded. They try and fit in somewhere else and still aren't made to feel part of the group. You can see a change in their body language. You can see it in their posts to social media. They feel alone. They feel invisible. To help them feel visible again, speak up about the things that you see in them and what they are doing. Encourage others to do the same as well. The more that they hear it from others, they will start to see it in themselves again. The feeling of isolation is real. Make sure you recognize your youth daily.

## TEACHING THE LESSON

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### Fellowship

As the students arrive create two equal groups and have them sit on opposite sides of the meeting space. Pass out paper and writing utensils and challenge the students to list all of the times that Joseph, the father of Jesus, is mentioned in the Bible. Allow the groups 5-10 minutes to complete their challenge and then have each group share their responses. Share any incidents that were not listed and then announce the group that had the most correct answers. Announce the winner and then facilitate a discussion using questions like the following:

- 1) Why is Joseph often overlooked in the birth narrative of Jesus?
- 2) How have we made Joseph invisible in the birth narrative of Jesus?
- 3) What is the importance of Joseph's role in the birth narrative?
- 4) Do you ever feel like Joseph when it comes to living out your faith? Explain your answer.

## Information

Transition to the next section of the session by reading Matthew 1.18-25. Allow the students to ask any initial questions they have about the text. As you answer their questions, you may want to provide some of the information found in Tony's commentary to answer their questions. When the students have had an opportunity to share their initial thoughts, continue the discussion by facilitating a discussion using questions like the following:

- 1) Why does Matthew trace Jesus' bloodline through Joseph and not Mary?
- 2) How do you think Joseph reacted when she told him she was pregnant? What would society of said to her at this time?
- 3) What does the angel tell Joseph when it appears to Joseph? What significance does what the angel says have to Joseph? What significance does what the angel says have to others?
- 4) What does this visit from the angel cause Joseph to do and not to do?
- 5) How is Joseph both visible and invisible in the story of Jesus?

If you group would like to dig deeper in their discussion, share some of the insights that Tony provides in the "Digging Deeper" portion of his commentary. You may want to use some questions like the following to facilitate your discussion:

- 1) Who are the women in the list of Jesus' ancestors?
- 2) What prediction of Isaiah's is fulfilled in the text for today?
- 3) Did Jesus have siblings? Does it matter if he did? Explain.

You may also want your group to discuss "The Hardest Question" if they would like to continue their discussion on this passage. Tony poses the following question to consider as "The Hardest Question": Why did Joseph want to divorce Mary?

## Transformation

Conclude your session by showing the video "The Invisible Boy". This is a recorded reading of a children's book, so you may be able to find the book to read if you are unable to show the video. If you can do neither, summarize the book, and then facilitate a discussion using questions like the following:

- 1) Why was the boy invisible? What did it take for the boy to be visible again?
- 2) Have you ever felt invisible? What did it take for you to feel visible again?
- 3) Do you know someone that feels invisible? What can you do to help that person feel visible again?
- 4) Why do you think people feel invisible? We know that each person is a child of God and should be visible to the world around them. What can you do for someone this week to help them not feel as invisible?

Close with a prayer asking that we have eyes to see people who might not want to be seen so that we can show their beauty off to the world.

## Transformation

Conclude your session by showing the clip “Is There Something You Want to Hear?” from *Moana*. If you are unable to show the clip, summarize it to the best of your ability and then facilitate a discussion using questions like the following:

- 1) What does Moana declare she is going to do? Why doesn't her grandmother stop her?
- 2) How does Moana view her grandmother?
- 3) Moana exacerbates, “Is there something you want to tell me?” and her grandmother responds, “Is there something you want to hear?” This is much like an exchange between Jesus and John the Baptist. What does John the Baptist want to hear from Jesus? Does Jesus respond the way that John wants him to respond?
- 4) When has there been a time in your life someone hasn't responded the way you wanted them to? How did you react?
- 5) When has there been a time when your faith has caused you to do something you didn't expect? What was the outcome?
- 6) How does Jesus call us to live knowing that we will be even greater in heaven?

Close with a prayer praising God for the uniqueness that each of us have.