

# Matthew 1:18-24

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

**Glory to you, O Lord**

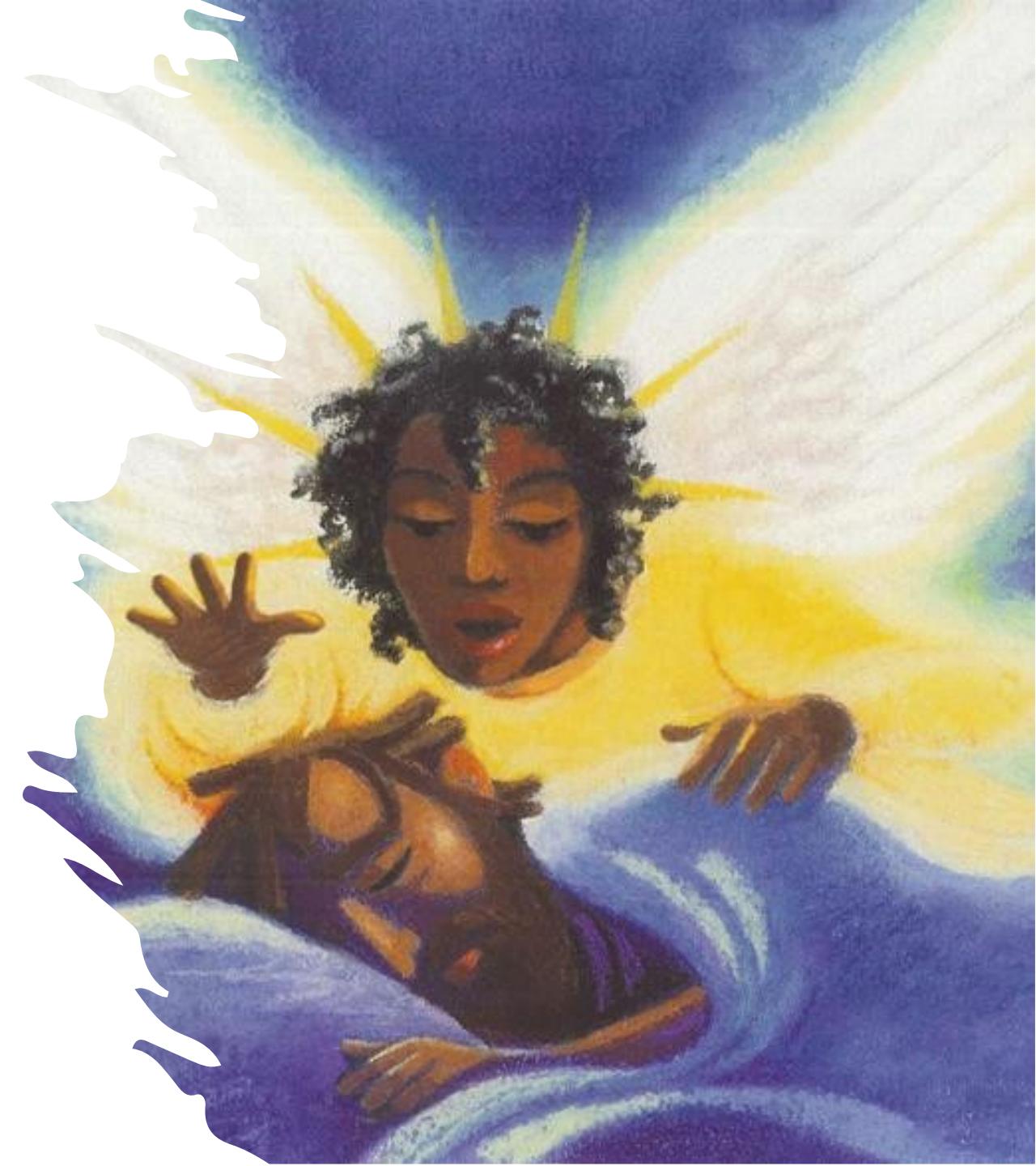
Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he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

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord, Jesus Christ**



# Matthew 1:20-22

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

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The Gospel of the Lord.

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# Matthew 1:22-24

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

**Glory to you, O Lord**

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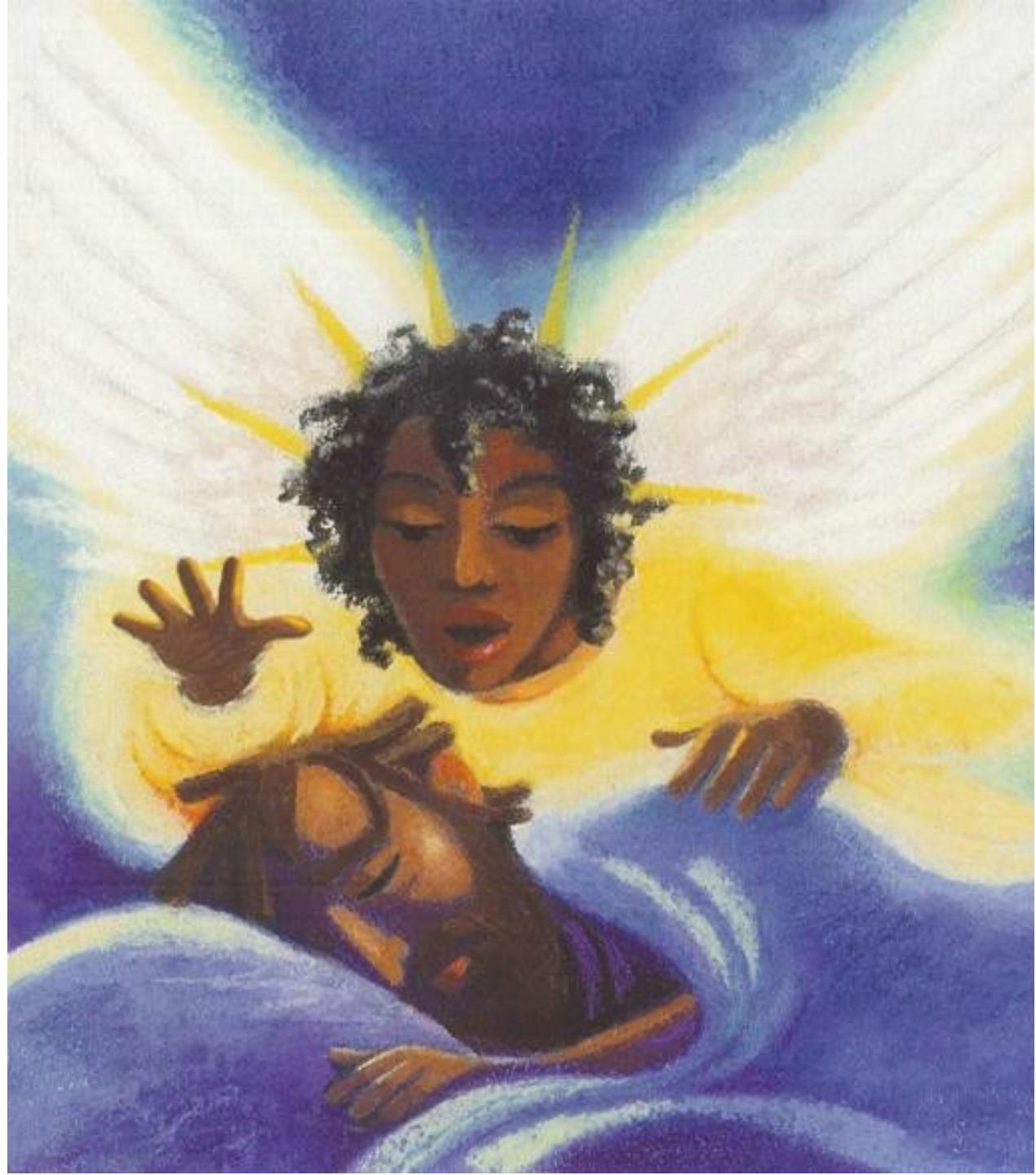
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**The Gospel of the Lord.**

**Praise to you, Lord, Jesus Christ**



# See

## Theme of the Week Love

# Hear

Day 1	A scene linked to love, e.g. a symbol of love
Day 2	A contrasting images that shows another side of love
Day 3	A hopeful or future-focused image connected to love

Day 1 Matthew 1:18-24

Day 2 Matthew 1:20-22

Day 3 Matthew 1:22-24

Day 1	What does love mean in your daily life?
Day 2	How can love guide your relationships with others?
Day 3	How does love bring you closer to God?

Day 1 Choose one action today that expresses love.

Day 2 Do something today that shows love of another person.

Day 3 Commit to practice this week to deepen your love.

# Think

# Do

## Theme of the Week

### Love

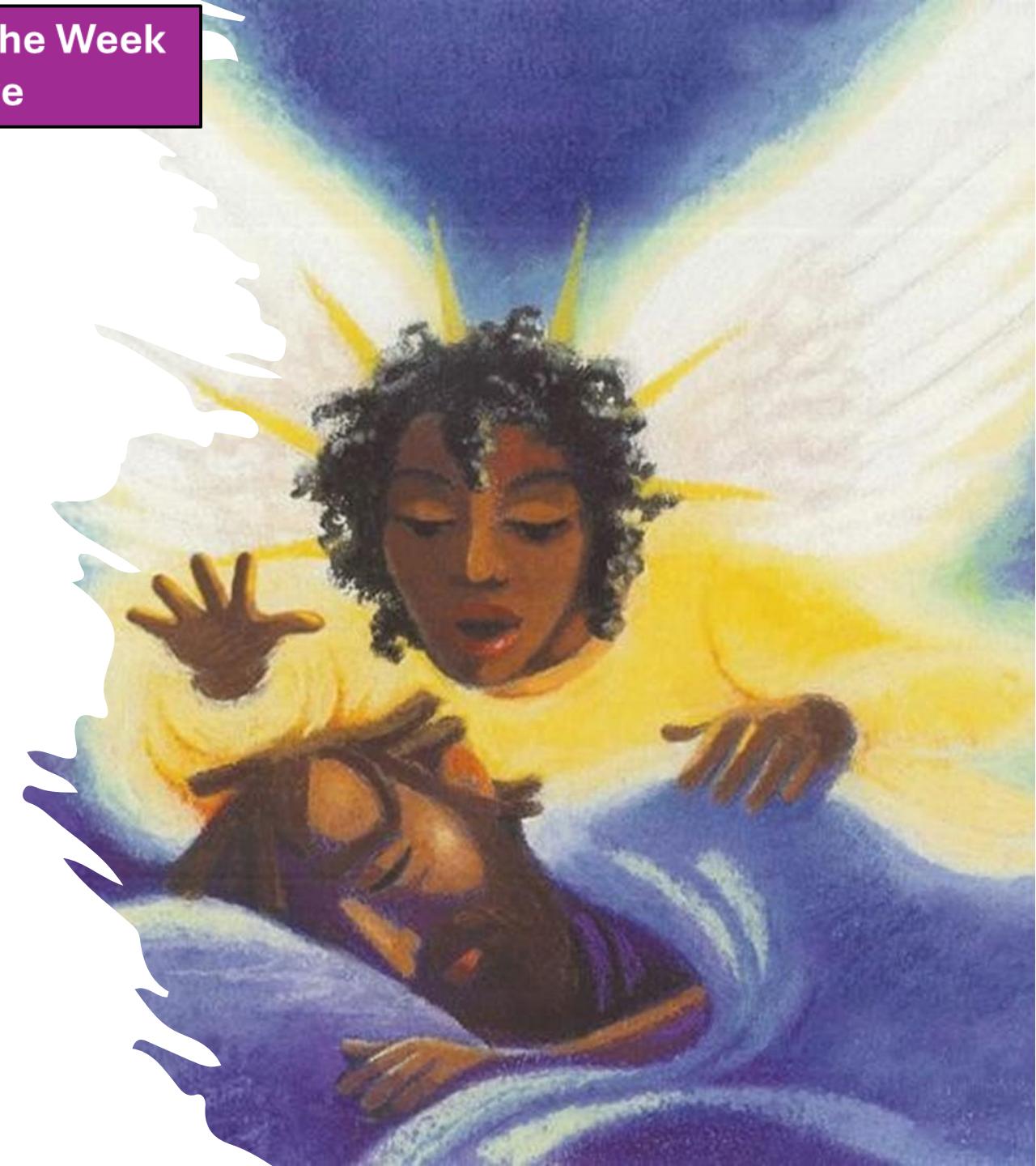
#### The Theme of Love

**Joseph's Love and Righteousness:** The text highlights Joseph as a "righteous man" who loved Mary and did not want to expose her to public shame or a potentially life-threatening public trial. His initial decision to "divorce her quietly" was an act of mercy and love, seeking to protect her reputation even when he believed she had been unfaithful.

**God's Love for Humanity:** God's love is the central, driving force of the narrative. He orchestrates the miraculous conception by the Holy Spirit to bring a Saviour into the world, fulfilling ancient promises. This action demonstrates God's desire to restore a relationship with humanity and "save his people from their sins".

**Immanuel, "God with Us":** The fulfilment of the prophecy that the child would be named "Immanuel" (which means "God with us") is the ultimate expression of divine love. God's love is not a distant concept but a personal presence in the human experience through Jesus.

**Obedience as Love's Response:** Joseph's ultimate obedience to the angel's command to take Mary as his wife is an example of love expressed through faithful action and trust in God's plan, even when it seemed confusing or went against conventional wisdom.



# See

## Theme of the Week Love

# Hear

**See a young couple facing an unexpected and scandalous pregnancy (in the cultural context).**

**See Joseph's internal struggle: balancing the law with compassion.**

**See the divine intervention through an angel's dream, providing clarity and direction.**

**Hear the angel's message: "Do not be afraid" and the explanation of the Holy Spirit's role.**

**Hear the name "Jesus" and its meaning: "He will save his people from their sins".**

**Hear the core message: "Immanuel," God is with us.**

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Think about how Joseph's initial decision was merciful, prioritizing Mary's well-being over strict adherence to the letter of the law.

Think about times you have had to make a difficult choice that required trust in something bigger than yourself or a radical act of kindness.

Think about what it means to believe in God's presence ("God with us") in your everyday life and challenges.

# Think

**Do** choose compassion and mercy in situations where judgment might be easier.

**Do** act on faith and obedience, even when the path is uncertain or goes against "common sense".

**Do** embody God's presence for others by offering support and protection to those in difficult situations, just as Joseph provided for Mary and Jesus.

# Do