

## God in the Mess

### *ChristMESS* Series

#### Discussion Questions

- **What is the messiest part of your house?**
  - How does the mess influence your emotional or mental state?
  
- **When it comes to the messy parts of life (your emotional, mental, relational or spiritual messes), what do you think God thinks about your mess?**
  - Describe a time in your life you felt like God was angry with your or disappointed in you.
  
- **Read Matthew 1:18-25**
  - Begin with observation. Describe the mess in this story:
    - Relationally?
    - Emotionally?
    - Spiritually?
  - What two names does the angel give Joseph for this new child?
  
- **In Matthew 1:21 we see the first name for the Christ child.**
  - What does the name Jesus literally translate to mean?
  - What is the significance of Jesus being a common first century Jewish name?
    - Why would God name him such an ordinary name?
  
- **In Matthew 1:22-23, we see the second “name” for Jesus: Immanuel.**
  - What does the name Immanuel literally translate to mean?
  - What is the significance of Jesus being God with us?
  
- **AW Tozer famously said, “the most important thing about you is what you think about when you think about God.” When you think about God do you usually think about his transcendence (his bigness and self-sufficiency) or do you think about his immanence (his closeness, his desire to be intimately involved in his creation)?**
  - How do the names of Jesus point us to his immanence?
    - Describe the approachability and proximity of Jesus.
  
- **In the sermon we talked about Christmas being a story of stairs: the “man upstairs” came down the stairs to be with us in the mess. What does it say about God that he’s willing to be WITH you in your mess?**
  - Give examples of Jesus entering into the mess in the gospels (i.e. washing the disciples feet).

- **Based on the example we see of Jesus entering the mess and based on his name meaning “God saves”- what do you think God thinks about your mess now?**
- **Tim Keller once wrote: “The gospel says you are more sinful and flawed than you ever dared believe, but more accepted and loved than you ever dared hope.”**
  - How does that statement make you feel?
  - Which do you struggle to believe more: that you are more sinful and flawed or more accepted and loved?
    - How does the gospel address both?
- **In the sermon this week we were challenged to CONFESS YOUR MESS. Who & how will you commit to confess this week? (If appropriate, spend time modelling confession for those you lead or consider breaking your group into smaller groups for a time of confession and prayer.)**
- **Considering the spiritual growth grid, which gospel identity reminds us we are a confessing people? (Citizen, Family, or Missionary)**