



# Digging Deeper

*Putting your faith in ACTION!*

This morning let's not be just 'hearers' of the Word, but 'doers of the word. Take some time at lunch, dinner, or bedtime to DIG DEEPER into the today's lesson and story. Take a few moments to apply today's lesson to our lives.

## **ASK MYSELF...challenging questions for the heart:**

1. How would you answer the question, "Whose is He?" Do you personally claim Him? How has He claimed you?
2. The birth of Christ into the world, set the stage for the adoption of all men and all women (who would receive the gift) into the family of God. What does your adoption story look like? When is the last time you shared this story with someone else?
3. How can you bring the message of the hope of adoption to someone who really needs to hear it this Christmas?
4. Someday, you will receive a new name? How do you feel about that? In what way are you looking forward to that?

## **FOR THE FAMILY...challenging questions for family life:**

1. Read Matthew 1 & 2. Have you kids listen for any mention of Joseph and the actions he took. How was he important to the Christmas story? Discuss how important Joseph was to the plan of God for us.
2. Discuss why adoption is so very special and the fact that Jesus coming to earth and dying on the cross would make adoption possible for all of us.
3. Take some time pray together.



## **Christmas Eve Service**

December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017

### **Series: What Child is This?**

#### **Part 4: Whose is He?**

Pastor Brian Stanley



He is a child \_\_\_\_\_ by a father who loved Him.

**Matthew 1:18-25** (NIV) <sup>18</sup>This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup>But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."<sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: <sup>23</sup>"The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us"). <sup>24</sup>When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. <sup>25</sup>But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

**Luke 2:48** (NIV) <sup>48</sup>When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you."

**John 1:43-45** (NLT) <sup>43</sup>The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Come, follow me." <sup>44</sup>Philip was from Bethsaida, Andrew and Peter's hometown. <sup>45</sup>Philip went to look for Nathanael and told him, "We have found the very person Moses and the prophets wrote about! His name is Jesus, the son of Joseph from Nazareth."

**John 6:41-42** (NLT) <sup>41</sup>Then the people began to murmur in disagreement because he had said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven." <sup>42</sup>They said, "Isn't this Jesus, the son of Joseph? We know his father and mother. How can he say, 'I came down from heaven'?"

He is the One who \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ us as part of His own family.

**Galatians 4:4-7** (NLT) <sup>4</sup>But when the right time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, subject to the law. <sup>5</sup>God sent him to buy freedom for us who were slaves to the law, so that he could adopt us as his very own children. <sup>6</sup>And because we are his children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, prompting us to call out, "Abba, Father." <sup>7</sup>Now you are no longer a slave but God's own child. And since you are his child, God has made you his heir.

He is the one who makes adoption into His \_\_\_\_\_.

**Matthew 1:21** (NLT) <sup>21</sup>And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

**Romans 8:14-17** (NLT) <sup>14</sup>For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. <sup>15</sup>So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, "Abba, Father." <sup>16</sup>For his Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God's children. <sup>17</sup>And since we are his children, we are his heirs. In fact, together with Christ we are heirs of God's glory. But if we are to share his glory, we must also share his suffering.

**Ephesians 1:5** (NLT) <sup>5</sup>God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure.

**Revelation 2:17** (NLT) <sup>17</sup>"Anyone with ears to hear must listen to the Spirit and understand what he is saying to the churches. To everyone who is victorious I will give some of the manna that has been hidden away in heaven. And I will give to each one a white stone, and on the stone will be engraved a new name that no one understands except the one who receives it.

He is the one who will give a new \_\_\_\_\_ to those who \_\_\_\_\_ part of His family.

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