

Field Expedition Overview (Leader Guide)

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL FAITH ADVENTURE THROUGH THE LIFE & MISSION OF CHRIST

Digging for Truth (Lesson): **God With US**

- Read:
 - **Luke 1-2** The Birth of Jesus
- Supporting Text:
 - **Matthew 1-2**

Lesson:

WAITING: Imagine waiting from the first promise of the Messiah in the Garden to the last prophecy in Malachi Then waiting through another 400+ years of silence. The Israelites (and the world!) waited a long time for the fulfillment of the promise as spoken by the prophets.

- But Alas; The Birth of the promised Messiah- The one Called Jesus the Christ! God became man!
 - **COLOSSIANS 2:9**

PROPHECY & PROMISE FULFILLED IN THE BIRTH OF JESUS. Let's review some of the Old Testament prophecies that were fulfilled at Jesus' Birth.

- Born of a Virgin:
 - Old Testament: **Isaiah 7:14** — Prophesied that a virgin (or young woman) would conceive and give birth to a son named Immanuel ("God with us").
 - New Testament Fulfillment: **Matthew 1:22-23** and **Luke 1:26-31** — Mary conceived Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit.
- Born in Bethlehem:
 - Old Testament: **Micah 5:2** — Foretold that the ruler of Israel would come from the small clan/town of Bethlehem Ephrathah.
 - New Testament Fulfillment: **Matthew 2:1** and **Luke 2:4-7** — Jesus was born in Bethlehem during the Roman census.
- Descendant of David and Jesse:
 - Old Testament: **Isaiah 11:1** — Spoke of a shoot springing up from the stump of Jesse (David's father) and a branch bearing fruit.
 - New Testament Fulfillment: **Matthew 1:1** and **Luke 3:23-32** — Both Joseph and Mary traced their lineage back to King David and Jesse.
- Called Out of Egypt:
 - Old Testament: **Hosea 11:1** — Stated, "Out of Egypt I called my son".
 - New Testament Fulfillment: **Matthew 2:14-15** — Joseph fled with Mary and infant Jesus to Egypt to escape Herod, returning after Herod's death.
- Royal Titles and Divine Identity:
 - Old Testament: **Isaiah 9:6** — Proclaimed, "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given... And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace".
 - New Testament Fulfillment: **Luke 2:10-11** and **Matthew 1:23** — Proclaimed by angels and scripture as the Savior and Lord.

Compass (Ultimate Truth - Bottom Line): **God Became Man**

Philippians 2:6-8 who, as He already existed in the form of God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but emptied Himself by taking the form of a bond-servant and being born in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death: death on a cross.

Lantern - A Light in the Darkness (Gospel Connection)

Jesus Is the fulfillment of The Promise of a Messiah. When sin entered the world in The Garden, God promised one who would defeat sin. **Genesis 3:15** Jesus came to Earth fully human as fulfillment of the promised savior. **John 3:16** For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish, but have eternal life.