

Sermon Notes 12/19/21
“Immanuel: God with us”
Matthew 1:18-25

Why was Jesus called “Immanuel?”

I. Jesus is God.

A. Jesus is our _____.
John 1:1-3

B. Jesus is our _____.
Hebrews 2:14-15
Titus 2:13-14

C. Jesus is our _____.
Philippians 2:6-11

II. Jesus is God with us.

A. Jesus _____ our struggles.
Hebrews 4:15-16

B. Jesus _____ to be with us.
John 14:1-3

C. Jesus is the _____ _____ to be with God.
John 14:4-6

Life Group Discussion Questions

December 19-26

Matthew 1:18-25



HOOK

1. Why is our society so drawn to gossip and scandal?



BOOK

Read Matthew 1:18-25

2. What happened to Mary while she and Joseph were engaged? (1:18)

3. What do you think Joseph initially thought upon hearing this news about his bride-to-be? (1:18-19)

4. What positive character qualities did Joseph possess? (1:19)

5. How did Joseph plan to handle this delicate situation? (1:19)

6. How was Joseph's ancestry significant? (1:20)

7. Why did Joseph change his plans to divorce Mary? (1:20)

8. If Joseph wasn't the actual father of Christ, who was? (1:18, 20)

9. What did the angel command Joseph to name the child and why? (1:21)

10. What significant mission in life would Mary's child have? (1:21)

11. How was the birth of Christ a fulfillment of Isaiah 7:14? (1:22-23)

12. What does "Immanuel" mean? (1:23)

13. How did Joseph respond to the angelic message? (1:24)



LOOK

14. How might you have responded in Mary's situation?
15. What would have been your reaction had you been in Joseph's situation?
16. What do you think Mary's family and friends thought about her story?
17. How do you think a typical church might have handled Mary's pre-marriage pregnancy?
18. How do you imagine the "grapevine" of the Nazareth community responding to the news about Mary and Joseph?
19. Have you ever been the victim of unsubstantiated rumors and gossip? If yes, how did you respond to the situation?
20. How does it feel to know that you are innocent and yet have people attacking your character and whispering behind your back?
21. Why does a desire for approval or acceptance sometimes keep people from doing the right thing?
22. How does Jesus continue to live up to the name "Immanuel"?



TOOK

23. What difficult command of God do you need to obey this week?
24. How will you respond the next time someone begins to tell you a juicy bit of gossip?



¹⁸ This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit.

¹⁹ Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

²⁰ 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.

²¹ 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.”

²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet:

²³ “The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel”—which means, “God with us.”

²⁴ When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife.

²⁵ But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

Matthew 1:18-25 (NIV)