

Christ, the Newborn King Cristo, el Rey Recién Nacido

Why was Jesus born?

¿Por qué nació Jesús?

1. Jesus was born to _____ us.

Jesús nació para _____.

Matthew 1:21 (Mateo 1:21)

Luke 19:10 (Lucas 19:10)

1 Timothy 1:15 (1 Timoteo 1:15)

2. Jesus was born to be with _____.

Jesús nació para estar con _____.

Matthew 1:23 (Mateo 1:23)

Hebrews 4:15-16 (Hebreos 4:15-16)

John 15:7-8 (Juan 15:7-8)

3. Jesus was born to be our _____.

Jesús nació para ser nuestro _____.

Matthew 2:2 (Mateo 2:2)

Isaiah 9:6-7 (Isaías 9:6-7)

John 18:37 (Juan 18:37)

Revelation 5:9-10 (Apocalipsis 5:9-10)



“Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him.” -Matthew 2:2 (NIV)

Life Group Discussion Questions

December 21-28

Matthew 1:18-25

Christmas is a wonderful time when people all over the world celebrate the birth of Christ. However, the birth of Christ is not just an event to celebrate once a year. It is also a personal story that is relevant to how we live. Before He was born in Bethlehem, Jesus was the Creator and Ruler of the universe. But He was willing to leave the splendor of heaven, put on human flesh, and live with us in our broken world. Then He went to the cross and died for our sins. He did this because He loves us, and He wants us to be with Him forever. At Christmas, we remember why Jesus set aside His divine glory to be born as a human baby?

Read Matthew 1:18-25

1. What happened to Mary while she and Joseph were engaged? (1:18)
2. What difficult decision was Joseph facing? (1:18-19)

Charles Swindoll comments,

The Law provided legal protection to women who had been taken advantage of in circumstances where no one could step in (Deut. 22:25-27). However, if she had willingly engaged in sexual immorality, what kind of woman would add to the sin of adultery the blasphemous claim that her child of fornication was actually the Son of God? None of this seemed to add up. Joseph had likely known Mary and her family for years, and he would have known that neither immorality nor deception was part of her character. Perhaps she had gone mad! You can imagine the agony Joseph was going through. (Swindoll, 24)

3. What positive character traits did Joseph possess? (1:19)
4. Why was Joseph planning to divorce Mary “quietly”? (1:19)
5. What happened to Joseph when he was considering his plans to divorce Mary? (1:20)

Swindoll notes,

The Greek word used here for “thinking” (*enthymeomai* [1760]) means “to process information by thinking about it carefully.” We might say that Joseph “ruminated on” or “pondered” his decision. It kept him up at night and distracted him during the day. Even after he planned to divorce Mary discreetly, something didn’t sit well with his decision. (Swindoll, 26)

6. How did the angel address Joseph? Why? (1:20)
7. How did the angel explain Mary’s pregnancy to Joseph? (1:20)
8. What did the angel tell Joseph to name the child? (1:21)
9. According to the angel, what was Jesus going to do? (1:21)

Larry Chouinard writes,

Although to save from sin is a work of God (Ps 130:8) and was not a major focus of Israelite messianic expectations, by popular etymology of the personal name Jesus (Heb., Yeshua meaning “the Lord saves,” NIV margin), the angel highlights the spiritual dimensions of Jesus’ messianic work. He will liberate his people not from political oppression, but from the tyrannical hold of sin, the ultimate oppressor of the people of God. For Matthew, Jesus’ identity cannot be separated from his mission.

(Chouinard, 48-49)

10. What Old Testament prophecy did Matthew quote? Why? (1:22-23)

Leon Morris observes,

Matthew is very interested in the way ancient prophecies found their fulfilment in Jesus. But though the formula is common in Matthew, the inclusion of *all* is not; here Matthew emphasizes that all the items mentioned were fulfilled and not only some of them. Notice that he speaks of the words in question not as spoken by the prophet, but as spoken by the Lord through the prophet. Matthew takes inspired prophecy very seriously.

(Morris, 30-31)

11. What does Immanuel mean? (1:23)

Morris comments,

As far as our information goes, nobody ever called Jesus “Emmanuel”; it was not the child’s name in the same sense as “Jesus” was. Matthew surely intends his readers to understand that “Emmanuel” was his name in the sense that all that was involved in that name found its fulfilment in him. The quotation and the translation of the Hebrew name underline the fact that in Jesus none less than God came right where we are. (Morris, 31)

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

13. What would you have done if you were in Joseph’s place?

14. What do you think Joseph’s family and friends were telling him to do?

15. How do you think the Nazareth community responded to the news about Mary and Joseph?

16. Have you ever been the victim of gossip? If yes, how did you respond to the situation?

17. Why does the approval or acceptance of others keep many people from doing the right thing?

18. How does Jesus continue to live up to the name “Immanuel”?

19. What decisions do you need to think carefully about this week?

20. How will you seek and follow God’s will for your life?

Sources cited:

Chouinard, Larry. *The College Press NIV Commentary: Matthew*. College Press, 1997.

Morris, Leon. *The Gospel According to Matthew*. Eerdmans, 1992.

Swindoll, Charles. *Swindoll’s Living Insights Matthew 1-15*. Tyndale, 2020.