



## Confidence in God's Presence

December 10, 2023 | Matthew 1:18-25 and Isaiah 7:1-17

### Questions for Study and Group Discussion

*\*\*Before discussing these questions, read through Matthew 1:18-25 and Isaiah 7:1-17 as a group.*

1. Icebreaker: Describe a time when the presence of a particular person in an experience made a significant difference (maybe an all-star athlete on a team you were on, a friend providing comfort at a pivotal time, an expert who supported you at work, etc.).
2. What does Matthew 1:22-23 say about Jesus's identity? What stands out to you about this?
3. Why is it significant that Jesus fulfills prophecy? What does this say about both (1) the divine inspiration of the Bible, and (2) who Jesus is?
4. What is the threat the nation of Judah is facing in Isaiah 7:1-17? (See esp. vv. 1-2.)
5. How does King Ahaz respond? (See esp. vv. 2-3; also 2 Kings 16:5-9.)
6. How does the Lord invite Ahaz to respond? (See vv. 4, 9-10.)
7. Read Isaiah 7:14 out loud. How should this promise motivate confidence in God's plan for God's people?
8. Reflect on all you've discussed from Isaiah 7. How does this passage encourage faith in God (as opposed to anything else)?
9. What practical step can you take this week, to demonstrate faith in (reliance, trust) the Sovereign Lord?
10. How can the significance of Jesus as "God with us" shape the way you approach Christmas this year? How should these truths guide your thoughts? Actions? Emotions?
11. What other questions or comments do you have about what you've looked at in the Bible?
12. What is your biggest take-away from what you've discussed so far? What practical step will you take to apply what you've seen in God's Word?
13. **Challenge:** Identify one way this passage is challenging or encouraging you. Who can you tell about what you're learning this coming week?
14. **Challenge: Memorize Matthew 1:23:** 'The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel' (which means 'God with us').