

What Child Is This?

I. Announce:

- A. **Slide1 Selah:** Due to the Christmas holiday, Selah Community Group will take a **break in December**. It will **resume on January 27th**.
- B. **Slide2 Christmas Eve Service:** We want to invite you all to our Christmas Eve services at 9:00am, 11:00am, 5:00pm, and 7:00pm. **At our evening services, we will have a few special surprises!** Morning and evening will be family services, where we will have a **candle lighting** and the **same Christmas message**. Please join us with your family and friends for a special service as we celebrate **God with Us**.
- C. **Slide3 Wednesday Refresh:** The last Wednesday of every month we are going change up Wednesday night and do a **“Wednesday Refresh.”** Each month our **“refresh” will look a little different:** it could be a time of extended worship, a time to discuss topics that have been on my heart, or a time for questions and answers. **While each “Wednesday refresh” will be distinct, each one will have 2 things in common: first,** we will continue to do worship and communion **and second, it will give us space and time to have a more intimate and interactive gathering as a church family.** The very first “Wednesday Refresh” will be this next Wednesday on the 27th - **please come and join me.**
- D. Prayer:

II. Slide4a Intro: What Child Is This?

- A. Our eternal destiny hangs on one question, asked here: *What Child is this?*
- B. Some believe he was simply a great man, a moral teacher, or a messenger of God.
1. But as believers, we know the right answer: **Jesus is the Son of God.**
 2. **We worship 1 God, who has revealed Himself in 3 Persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.** We know that Jesus Christ is not only **the Son of God, but He is also God the Son.**
- C. John 1:1-2 says, *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God.*

D. Slide4b “A Stable once had something inside it, that was bigger than our whole world.”¹

III. Slide5a Let’s 1st ask ... **WHOSE CHILD IS THIS? READ Mt.1:1**

A. [1] **IT’S JOSEPH’S CHILD** (Mt.1)

B. **Matthews gospel starts with Jesus’ Foster Fathers Genealogy.**

1. Matthew starts his gospel by saying **Jesus** is the rightful heir to the throne of Israel. [tracing His **legal right** to the throne]
 - a) **Racially** - thru **Abraham** [Ab.’s seed would be blessed]
 - b) **Royally** - thru **David** [couldn’t build God a house, but God would build a house thru him! **2Sam7:13**]
 - c) **Matthew** (writing to the **Jews**) traces only back to **Abraham**.
 - d) **Luke** (writing to the **Gentiles**, **not only to Israel but to ALL humanity**) takes us all the way back to **Adam**.
 - (1) **Lk’s account, is Mary’s line, Lk.3:23** [tracing Jesus’ **natural/physical rights** to the throne].
2. **Since all Jewish genealogies were destroyed in **A.D.70****, there is no Jew today who can claim w/certainty and authority to be a **son of Abraham** and a **son of David**, except **Jesus**.

C. **Joseph** - Foster Dad. Jesus’ Real Dad.

1. **Often someone will ask a foster dad, or adoptive dad**, about the **Real Dad**. **Did he struggle with parental identity?**
2. Though he wasn’t Jesus biological dad, he was his dad. **Any different from Embryo Adoption today?**
 - a) Did you know **more than a million** unused **IVF embryos** are in cryo-storage. **Are they the next pro-life frontier?**
3. **Slide5b A: What do we know about Jesus Foster dad?** (Looking at Mt.1:19)

¹ C.S.Lewis

- a) Joseph takes a stand for **righteousness** (just man). **And** he is also **merciful** (unwilling to put her to shame)! *What a Man!*
- b) **We know little of Joseph**. He was a **carpenter** **and** was *the son of Jacob*.
- c) **God knew much more about him**. God knew He could **trust him** to raise His only begotten son.

4. **A: What qualifications do you suppose God was looking for & used?**
[obedience, submission to His will, trustworthy]

5. **Pre-marital pregnancy, a scandal as old as Teen-age hormones.** (Listen serious)

- a) Deut.22:23,24 *If a young woman who is a virgin is betrothed to a husband, & a man finds her in the city and lies with her, then you shall bring them both out to the gate of that city, and you shall stone them to death with stones, the young woman because she did not cry out in the city, and the man because he humbled his neighbor's wife.*

(1) **Certainly he wouldn't stone her, but** he knew he **wasn't** the father.

6. **We know Joseph had to Determine what to do, so he sleeps on it! :) (20)**

- a) Like when **Peter** was able to sleep in prison, even though **Herod** was going to kill him in the morning.
- b) **Good wisdom ... sleep on it!** Maybe God will give you a dream? **Or just wake you up w/a way.**

D. **So, Whose Child Is This?** It's Joseph's Foster Child.

E. **Slide5c [2] IT'S MARY'S CHILD**

F. **There were other strange ways people came into the world**

1. **Adam** - born of **dirt, with** God the Fathers help of His *breath*.
2. **Eve** - made from **a rib-bone** of Adam, **with** God the Fathers surgical help.
3. **Jesus** - conceived in a women's womb, **but with** the Holy Spirits help.

- G. The miracle of the **virgin birth** was **not** the actual **birth**, **but** the **conception** of Christ's earthly body.²
1. This conception was **not only supernatural, but unique** also, for God had already performed *supernatural births* for "*Sarah, Hannah, Elizabeth & others.*"³
 2. The Son of the Most High God **umbilically tied** to a lowly Jewish girl!⁴
- H. **So, Whose Child Is This? It's Joseph's Foster Child. It's Mary's Child.**
- I. **Slide5d [3] IT'S GOD'S PEACE CHILD**
- J. **One person said it this way....**
1. The Father was The Author of Christmas, *For God so loved, that He gave*
 2. The Son was The Star of Christmas, *His only begotten Son.*
 3. The World was The Recipients of Christmas, *for He so loved the world.*
- K. Charles Wesley sang about this birth, *Veiled in flesh the Godhead See, Hail the incarnate Deity.*
1. The **Son of God** becomes the **Son of Man**. By a real human birth He becomes a **member of our race**, as well as its **Creator**.
 2. **The Unseen** becomes **seen**. God emerges from heavenly **hiddenness**, into earthly **visibility**.⁵
 3. **The incomprehensible SOMEONE** becomes the **approachable, touchable, understandable JESUS**.
 4. **The Creator** becomes **Savior**. The greatest fact of all.
- L. **So, Whose Child Is This? It's Joseph's Foster Child. It's Mary's Child. It's God's Peace Child.**

IV. Slide6a **WHAT CHILD IS THIS? READ Mt. 1:18-24**

² Willmington's Guide to the Bible; pg.612

³ *ibid*

⁴ Ken Gire; Intimate Moments w/the Savior; pg.4.

⁵ J. Sidlow Baxter; Awake My Heart; Oct.30th; pg.320.

A. IT'S GOD IN-UTERO [In the womb] (Mt.1:18-25)

1. ... *of the Holy Spirit* (18,20)

B. Slide6b Which leads us right to the **1st of 3** of His names given here.

1. **IMMANUEL, HIS DESCRIPTIVE NAME.** (23)

a) A descriptive title of His earthly ministry, *i.e. God with us.*

b) Jesus is still with us. *No temporary thing here. Always with us.*

2. **JESUS, HIS HUMAN NAME** (21,25)

a) The Greek form of the Hebrew *Yashua/Joshua* (a very popular name).

(1) It meant *Jehovah is Salvation.*

3. **CHRIST, HIS OFFICIAL TITLE** (18)

a) The Greek form of the Hebrew *Mashiach or Messiah. The Anointed one.*

b) *In the O.T. 3 groups were anointed: Prophets, Priests, & Kings.*

C. His Name **Jesus** also defines why He came, *for he will save his people from their sins.*

D. Slide7a Our Sin has a 3-fold Repercussion:

1. **It Effects Our Nature:** The Nature we're born with is **enmity** (actively opposed) towards God.

a) Albert Einstein, *It is easier to denature plutonium than to denature the evil spirit of man.*

2. Slide7b It Effects Our **State**/condition: The **State** we're born in is the absence of Righteousness.

3. Slide7c It Effects Our **Actions:** Our **Actions** become **proof** of our *fallen* Nature and State, when we violate or disobey the revealed will of God!

a) If you haven't *let go of your sins* you're holding onto *a Hand Grenade w/pin pulled out.*

V. Slide8 **WHAT CHILD IS THIS? Christmas Carol** by William Chatterton Dix

A. **Verse 1**

B. What child is this *who laid to rest* On Mary's lap is sleeping.

C. Whom angels greet with anthems sweet - While shepherds watch are keeping.

D. **Verse 2**

E. **A:** Why lies He in such *mean estate* Where ox and lamb are feeding. [mean = *unflattering, uncomfortable, even insulting circumstances* in which Jesus was born]

F. **A:** Good Christian fear for sinners here - **The silent Word is pleading.**

1. [In the midst of some pretty severe “*mean estate*,” even so, “*the silent Word*” was “*pleading*.” - Pleading **with** us. Pleading **for** us. Pleading that we would **slow down and reflect enough** to hear “*the silent Word*,” the very presence of God with us, in the midst of “*mean estate*.”]

2. **The silent Word pleads, Listen!**

G. **Chorus**

H. This this is Christ the King - Whom shepherds guard and angels sing.

I. Haste haste to bring Him laud/praise - The Babe the Son of Mary.

J. **Verse 3**

K. So bring Him incense gold and myrrh - Come peasant king to own Him.

L. The King of kings salvation brings - Let loving hearts enthrone Him.

M. Keywords: Child, Jesus.

N. Suggestions for this Christmas w/extended family or friends:

1. Pray for the family meal.
2. Read 1 of the Christmas stories (Mt. 1,2; Lk. 1,2)
3. Have everyone say, “What Christmas means to them” (in a few sentences)
4. Favorite character of the Christmas story & why? (if they know it)