

# Jesus is GOD



*Matthew 1:18* Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup> But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” <sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

<sup>23</sup> “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us).

<sup>24</sup> When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, <sup>25</sup> but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

1. Jesus was born of a \_\_\_\_\_, figurative or literal?
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ is a watershed claim that leads to personal crisis and great hope.
3. Jesus is “GOD with us,” which takes \_\_\_\_\_ to admit to, commit to, and submit to.

## Application

**Note:** As we enter the Christmas season and the New Year, we encourage every group to take a break from normal Home Community activities. We will encourage groups to meet organically if you so desire. And then groups will pick up again the week of the 10<sup>th</sup> of January.

**Personal Application:** Do you see yourself, your spouse or your children struggling to live the Christian life, a life of selfless humility with a servant attitude?

[Contemplate this for a moment]

Perhaps the struggle to live the Christian life is because of a lack of understanding Christmas?

At the heart of the Christmas story is the “the Virgin Birth” or the “Incarnation”, which is a watershed belief in Christianity. In simple terms, the Incarnation means that GOD “incarnated” Himself in human flesh in the person of Jesus (Matt. 1:18-25). This means that the person of Jesus had a pre-existing state as GOD for all of eternity (John 1:1) and that GOD became a human and dwelt among us (John 1:14).

***This is a theologically mind-blowing concept.***

Most people do not believe that this could occur because of our scientific mindedness. And those that do believe in the miraculous often question the very reason why GOD would *need* or *want* to become human. Here is the logic, in short:

- ❖ Some believe that GOD is *only* holy, and therefore demands that you “do better” in order to please this “god” and make it into heaven. Therefore, there is no need for this kind of god to come to us, only that we would strive to be good enough to get “in”.
- ❖ Others believe that GOD, if there is a “god”, would be all accepting and overlook our sins or shortcomings and embrace us. This kind of a deity would have no need to come to earth because this god will just let everyone into heaven.
- ❖ But only a GOD who is Holy and *also* Loving would both demand that we do better, and because we did not, He came to us to be with us because of His great love and mercy. He came that He might show us personal care and He came that He might satisfy the demands of a Holy GOD by a perfect life and a sacrifice on our behalf to pay the ransom price for forgiveness of sins.

Only a Holy and Loving GOD would think of the Incarnation of Christmas.

- The Incarnation is a watershed belief. Without it, the miracle of the cross and resurrection lose their depth of meaning and their power.
- If you struggle with the cross, you likely struggle with the virgin birth as well.
- But if you come to realize the importance of the theology of GOD incarnated in a baby, then you will realize this Holy GOD loves you enough to humbly serve you (Philippians 2:5-11).
- And if you can grasp the depth of this concept, then you will develop a humility and begin to serve others like Jesus (Philippians 2:1-4).