



Dwelling in the Word

Prayerfully read Matt 1:18-25 and ask: 1) What words, phrases, or images stood out to you?

2) What does this say about what God desires to accomplish?

3) How could you respond to what God says in this passage?

Beginning the Conversation

1. The idea of Emmanuel, God with us, is a common theme in many Christmas carols. What is your favourite Christmas carol and why?
2. Both Mary and Joseph had to rearrange their lives in order to fulfill God's calling for them. Have you chosen to give up something, risk something, or alter plans in order to say yes to God?

Digging Deeper *(pick some of the following questions to discuss as a group)*

1. In what ways does knowing the timeline of a first century near eastern marriage (binding contract → pledged phase of about a year → ceremony, celebration → domestic union) change or enrich your understanding of the 'Christmas story'?
2. *Messiah* from the Hebrew, and *Christ* from the Greek both mean "anointed one", both Priests and Kings in the Old Testament were called to be anointed with oil to commission them in their roles.
 - Read Hebrews 4:14-5:10 and Mark 15:37-39. How does the idea of Jesus as the **Ultimate High Priest** affect how you understand your relationship to God the Father and the Holy Spirit?
 - Read Luke 2:28-33 and Philippians 2:6-11. How does the idea of Jesus as the **Ultimate King** over "Jacob's descendants" and the entire cosmos affect how you understand your relationship to God the Father and the Holy Spirit?
3. Matthew establishes that Jesus was indeed the Son of God; Divine from his conception through the Holy Spirit, and also fully human with a real mother, Mary. The Chalcedonian Creed (451AD) was the statement put forward to keep the church from straying from this mysterious reality. How was **the divinity and humanity** of Jesus Christ taught to you as you grew in your faith? How would you explain it in ordinary terms to someone who was inquiring about it? And why does it matter?

Living it Out How are we preparing room in our hearts for Jesus this season:

1. Do you have enough **margin** in your life (time /other resources) to listen and respond to God's call?
2. Are your **plans** for the future 'pivotable'? Do you find it a challenge to submit your plans to God?
3. What **next steps** might God be calling you to?
4. John 1:14 says that "the Word (Jesus) became human and made his home among us." (NLT). How can this reality of God with us, first in the incarnation of Christ, and also in the gift of the Holy Spirit, transform our understanding of our place in the world?
5. Read Jesus' last words to his disciples in Matthew's gospel in chapter 28, verses 16-20: what specific things was he calling them to and what specific things were in place to empower them? In light of these things, in what ways (similar or different) have you felt God's call upon your life?



BIRTH OF THE KING

ADVENT 2025



JESUS: God's Promised Presence

Plans, Prophecy, Pivots, and Peace in Matthew 1:18-25

December 7, 2025
Pastor Cailey Tse
Greenfield Community Church

Introduction: The Birth of the King (1-2)



Discourse 1
Announcing the Kingdom (3-7)



Discourse 2
Mission of the Kingdom (8-10)



Discourse 3
Mystery of the Kingdom (11-13)



Discourse 4
Community of the Kingdom (14-18)



Discourse 5
Conflict of the Kingdom (19-25)

Culmination: Last Supper, Death & Resurrection of the King (26-28)

1-17

WHO?

Matthew 1



HOW?

WHY?

18-25

¹ This is the genealogy¹ of Jesus the Messiah² the son of David, the son of Abraham:

² Abraham was the father of Isaac,
³ Isaac the father of Jacob,
⁴ Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers,
⁵ Judah the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar,
⁶ Perez the father of Hezron,
⁷ Hezron the father of Ram,
⁸ Ram the father of Amnon, Amnon the father of Nahshon,
⁹ Nahshon the father of Salmon,
¹⁰ Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab,
¹¹ Boaz the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth,
¹² Obed the father of Jesse,
¹³ and Jesse the father of King David.

David was the father of Solomon, whose mother had been Uriah's wife,
¹⁴ Solomon the father of Rehoboam,
¹⁵ Rehoboam the father of Abijah,
¹⁶ Abijah the father of Asa,
¹⁷ Asa the father of Jehoshaphat,
¹⁸ Jehoshaphat the father of Jehoram,
¹⁹ Jehoram the father of Uzziah,
²⁰ Uzziah the father of Jotham,
²¹ Jotham the father of Ahaz,
²² Ahaz the father of Hezekiah,
²³ Hezekiah the father of Manasseh,
²⁴ Manasseh the father of Amon,
²⁵ Amon the father of Josiah,
²⁶ and Josiah the father of Jeconiah²⁷ and his brothers at the time of the exile to Babylon.

²⁷ After the exile to Babylon:
²⁸ Jeconiah was the father of Shealtiel,
²⁹ Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel,
³⁰ Zerubbabel the father of Abihud,
³¹ Abihud the father of Eliakim,
³² Eliakim the father of Asaiah,
³³ Asaiah the father of Josiah,
³⁴ Josiah the father of Ahoi,
³⁵ Ahoi the father of Shebuel,
³⁶ Shebuel the father of Benaiah,
³⁷ Benaiah the father of Eliab,
³⁸ Eliab the father of Elihu,
³⁹ Elihu the father of Semei,
⁴⁰ Semei the father of Josiah,
⁴¹ Josiah the father of Elihu,
⁴² Elihu the father of Semei,
⁴³ Semei the father of Josiah,
⁴⁴ Josiah the father of Elihu,
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⁹⁹ Elihu the father of Semei,
¹⁰⁰ Semei the father of Josiah,

¹⁰¹ Thus there were fourteen generations in all from Abraham to David, fourteen from David to the exile to Babylon, and fourteen from the exile to the Messiah.

¹⁸ This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about:¹⁹ His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. ²⁰ Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet²¹ did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

²² 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. ²³ She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus,²⁴ because he will save his people from their sins."

²⁵ All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²⁶ "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel!"²⁷ (which means "God with us").

²⁸ When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. ²⁹ But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

Matthew 1



18-25

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Matthew 1:18

[Origins Part 2]

How

"genesis"
See 1:1



Hebrew
Greek
English meaning

מָשִׁיחַ
māšīah
Χριστός
christos
Anointed One

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



Matthew 1:19

[Joseph's Plan]



Because Joseph her **husband** was faithful to **the law**, and yet did not want to expose her to **public disgrace**, he had in mind to **divorce** her **quietly**.



Matthew 1:20

[God's Message]



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**."



Matthew 1:21

[God's Message]



Hebrew
יהושע
y'hōšūa'

Greek
Ἰησοῦς
iēsous

English
meaning
Yahweh
is
salvation

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."



WHY



Matthew 1:22-23

[An OT Connection]

"accomplish"
See Matt 5:17
& Luke 24:27



3 of
300+
prophecies
fulfilled

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

"THE VIRGIN WILL CONCEIVE AND GIVE BIRTH TO A SON, AND THEY WILL CALL HIM IMMANUEL"

(which means "God with us").



Matthew 1:24-25

[Joseph's Obedience]



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

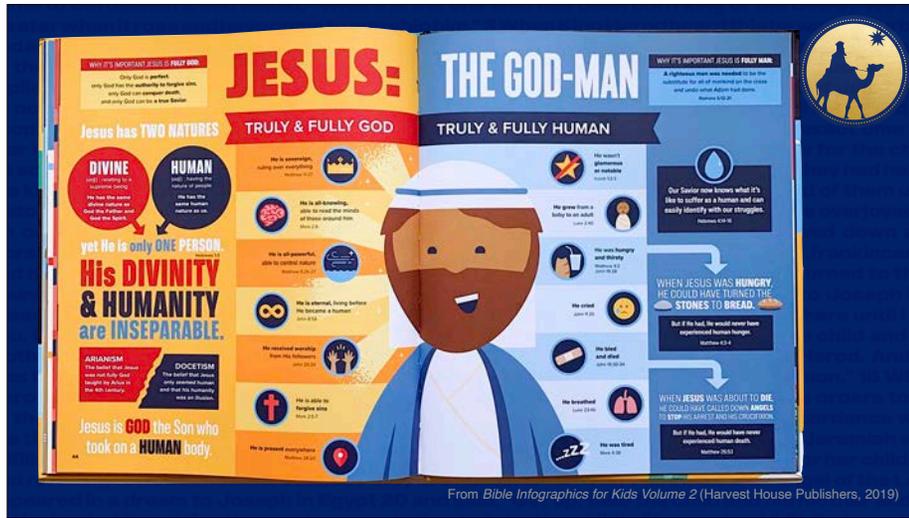


But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name **Jesus.**



THE CULMINATION OF GOD'S
REDEMPITIVE PURPOSES FOR
HUMANKIND IS FOUND IN THE
PERSON AND WORK OF
JESUS THE MESSIAH, WHO IS
FULLY HUMAN AND FULLY DIVINE.





Christmas Invitation

How are we preparing room in our hearts for Jesus this season?

- Do we have **margin** in our lives?
- Are our **plans** for the future submitted to the Lord?
- What **next steps** might Jesus be calling us to?
- How might knowing Jesus as "**God with us**" change our lives?