

“God With Us”
Matthew 1:18-25
December 21, 2025

Matthew 1:18–25: [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. [19] And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. [20] 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. [21] She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” [22] All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

[23] “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,

and they shall call his name Immanuel”

(which means, God with us).

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

Main goal is for us to remember and reflect on two truths found in Matthew surrounding the birth of Jesus: He will save the people from their sins (v. 21) and God desires to be with us (v. 23—Immanuel, God with us).

Great place to start with any good story is the beginning. Genesis 1-3 is packed full of content that helps us understand God had a plan and was in control from the start.

In order to appreciate the good news of Jesus and the hope He brings, we need to recognize our need for a Savior.

Romans 3:23: “All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.” **Romans 5:12:** “Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned”

The only hope is Jesus; He is the One who saves us from our sin. But the good news does not end there; the birth of Jesus reminds us that God desires to be with us—Immanuel.

John 1:14: “The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.”

Jesus “tabernacled” among us.

If He just wanted us to submit to Him—let Him rule from a distance—then there would have been no need for him being born into this world.

Hebrews 2:17: “Therefore, he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.”

Hebrews 4:14-16: “Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has

been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”

Jesus fully knows and understands us. He can sympathize with our weaknesses.

Matthew begins and ends with reminding us that Jesus is with us. He promised he will still go with us today.

Matthew 28:19-20: “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And *behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.*”

Galatians 2:20: I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but *Christ who lives in me.*

Life Group Discussion Questions

- What did God say to you during our Sunday gathering?
- What is a Christmas song you've heard so often that it's easy to sing without thinking about the meaning? Why do you think that happens?
- How can familiarity with the things of God make us numb to the awe and wonder we should feel towards Him? How have you experienced this in your life?
- How do Matthew 1:21 (“He will save his people from their sins”) and 1:23 (“God with us”) complement each other rather than stand alone?
- Why is it significant that Jesus didn't save us “from a distance,” but came to dwell among us?
- How does it feel to consider the fact that Jesus became like us in every way? How often do you really think about this? How does it change the way you approach Him?
- How would your daily routines look different if you were consistently aware that God is with you?
- Matthew begins and ends with the promise of God's presence (Matthew 1:23; 28:20). How does that shape the mission Jesus gives His followers?
- How can your Life Group help you apply this passage to your life this week?