

Week of December 25 - You are to Name Him Jesus Small Group Lesson

Connect

Do you think a name affects the way a person is looked at? How? Would it be more of how they themselves act how they are treated, by their name or title, or both?

Verses - Matthew 1:18-25 (CSB)

18 The birth of Jesus Christ came about this way: After his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, it was discovered before they came together that she was pregnant from the Holy Spirit. 19 So her husband, Joseph, being a righteous man, and not wanting to disgrace her publicly, decided to divorce her secretly.

20 But after he had considered these things, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, don’t be afraid to take Mary as your wife, because what has been conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will give birth to a son, and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

22 Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet: 23 See, the virgin will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they will name him Immanuel, which is translated “God is with us.”

24 When Joseph woke up, he did as the Lord’s angel had commanded him. He married her 25 but did not have sexual relations with her until she gave birth to a son. And he named him Jesus.

Study

1. What details are given about the Savior and what significance do they have? (Micah 5:2; Isaiah 7:14, 9:6)

2. While most people today are not waiting for these prophecies to be fulfilled, why is it important that they were? (Ephesians 2:19-20; Romans 3:1-2; Hebrews 1:1-3; Luke 6:13)

3. What did Joseph initially want to do about Mary? Was anything wrong with him deciding so? What did in spite of how he may have felt?

DISCUSS

Read John 1:10-14. What connection can you see in the prophesied name Immanuel? What was God's purpose in His birth? (John 3:16)

APPLY

You have probably witnessed the commercialization of Christmas all around you in your daily life.. ads, commercials, inappropriate gifts, strange foods, etc. How can we witness the truth of Jesus in such shallowness, in wise—even strategic ways today—in such a secularized world?

Share

Joseph displayed faith in God through what the Holy Spirit had spoken to him. Faith was the key factor of both why Joseph and the apostles had changed their lives forever. How do you notice that faith in Jesus changes the way you do things? Is this a positive or negative change? How?

Grow

Minister to one another through sharing praise and specific prayer requests.

Name and pray for a person you can share the message to of Immanuel - God came to save us. Pray that while we celebrate the holidays, we can be a witness to the world for Jesus Christ.