

Family Discussion Guide


Christmas — December 2018


This month at Confirmation we looked at the scripture accounts of the birth of Jesus. To continue this discussion at home, complete the following readings and discussion questions.


I. “All this took place to fulfill . . . ”


In the Gospel of Matthew the author’s main purpose for writing this account of Jesus’ life is to prove to his readers - many of whom were Jewish - that Jesus is their Messiah. Matthew does this primarily by showing how Jesus fulfilled the Old Testament scriptures.


This week in your Family Discussion Time, look up and read the following verses. Using the footnotes in your Bible, write the location of the Old Testament verse quoted by Matthew. Then list on the spaces below what is being fulfilled in each passage. (NOTE: You can often find the specific Old Testament verse listed in a footnote to the passage.)


-  Matthew 1:22-23
- What Old Testament verse is quoted?
 - What is fulfilled in this passage?


-  Matthew 2:5-6
- What Old Testament verse is quoted?
 - What is fulfilled in this passage?


-  Matthew 2:22-23
- What Old Testament verse is quoted?
 - What is fulfilled in this passage?


-  Matthew 4:12-17
- What Old Testament verse is quoted?
 - What is fulfilled in this passage?

-  Matthew 8:16-17
- What Old Testament verse is quoted?
 - What is fulfilled in this passage?

-  Matthew 12:15-21
- What Old Testament verse is quoted?
 - What is fulfilled in this passage?

-  Matthew 13:34-35
- What Old Testament verse is quoted?
 - What is fulfilled in this passage?

-  Matthew 21:1-5
- What Old Testament verse is quoted?
 - What is fulfilled in this passage?

-  Matthew 26:31
- What Old Testament verse is quoted?
 - What is fulfilled in this passage?

Did you discover something?

Yes, this is more than a coincidence. This is God working his plan to bring us salvation through the One he promised - Jesus Christ, the Messiah.

II. Birth of Jesus

Read Matthew 1:18-25 and discuss the following questions in your Family Discussion Time.

1. How would you feel if you were in Joseph's place?
2. What reason does Matthew give as to why Jesus was born?
3. What is the significance of Jesus' name?
4. What message does "Immanuel" convey?
5. What point does verse 22 make?

Read Matthew 2:1-12 and discuss the following questions in your Family Discussion Time

1. Think of the way the visit of the Wise Men is traditionally told. What "popular details" are not contained in Matthew's account?
2. Why was Herod so concerned that the baby be found?

Family Activity

During the month of December families are very busy preparing for Christmas with shopping, baking, decorating, entertaining and attending school events. Sometimes the real meaning of Christmas gets lost in the busy-ness of the season.

This month we encourage each family of a confirmation student to do one thing together that helps, encourages, or shows care for another person who might be alone or lonely during the holiday season. You may wish to take a plate of baked goods to an elderly neighbor, support our military troops with a card or gift, visit a nursing home and share treats with the residents, or find another way of doing a "random act of kindness."

To complete this "Family Discussion Guide," please write a paragraph about what you and your family did this month to show God's love to others.

