



Sermon Discussion Guide

12.22.24 Message | Tyler Myers | Matthew 1:18-23

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. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. 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. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means God with us).

- Matthew 1:18-23

Message Highlights

- Christmas invites us to recognize the overlooked gift of Immanuel—God with us.
- Rescue is both a spiritual and situational reality offered by Jesus.
- Salvation is not just a past event but a daily journey of trusting God.
- We often look for rescue in the wrong places—power, money or relationships.
- God's presence does not fade with the season; he remains constant all year.

Conversation Starter

What is one holiday tradition that has stuck with you since childhood and what does it remind you about life or faith?

Discuss the Message

- In what ways have you sought rescue in things other than God? How does this align with the message?
- The message spoke of salvation as both spiritual and situational. What does this mean and what areas of your life still need God's rescue? (Micah 7:7)
- How do Ralphie's expectations in *A Christmas Story* mirror our tendencies to miss God's greater gifts?
- What did the sermon reveal about the importance of aligning with Christ's authority as a body?



Think Deeper (Does your group understand the passage?)

- How does the prophecy of Immanuel—God with us—shape your understanding of Jesus' birth? (Matthew 1:23)
- Why do you think Joseph needed reassurance in his situation? How does God's presence give us similar reassurance? (Matthew 1:20)
- How does the prayer for rescue in Micah 7:7 connect to your prayers today?

Think Life Change (Does your group recognize the personal implications for them as individuals?)

- How can processing the constant presence of Jesus shape your responses to stress or difficulty?
- What would it look like to trust God daily for both spiritual and situational salvation?
- How can focusing on Jesus as "the answer" impact your decisions in the coming year? What does that look like in various situations you might experience?

Think Engage (Does your group know how to apply the challenge?)

- Who in your life needs to hear about the constant presence of Immanuel? How would you present this to each individual differently?
- Think of someone who needs encouragement. How can you encourage someone who feels forgotten or overlooked this season?
- In what ways can your circle of influence see Christ through your actions this Christmas?

Think Kingdom (Does your group understand the overarching Kingdom, that the work we do is bigger than ourselves?)

- What does "God with us" look like in your daily life? How can this truth become more tangible?
- How does recognizing God's presence influence your view of life?
- What does it mean for Jesus to be the answer to our prayers all year?