

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, December 10, 2006

Passage: Matthew 1:18-25

Memory Passage: Matthew 1:23

TODAY: *From your study this past week, what is one thing that impressed you that can be of help in your life?*

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Matthew 1:18-19.** The passage studied last week told us something about Jesus' natural birth. Re-read Mt. 1:1-17 and summarize what you learned about the *natural* birth of Jesus.
- (b) Today's passage tells us about his *supernatural* birth. Read through the entire passage and note anything that is supernatural about this birth. How is the virgin birth treated today? Why is it important to emphasize and understand this doctrine?
- (c) What does Joseph do that reveals his character? List the things he does that show his character.
- (d) Read Matthew 2:13-23. What else do we learn here about Joseph? What godly characteristics does this passage reveal?
- (e) Read Luke 2:41 and 4:14-16. What do these tell us about Joseph?
- (f) *Family:* Read Matthew 1:18-19 and discuss why Joseph was concerned about Mary. What is the right attitude to have toward someone that you love? How does Joseph display this? What other godly characteristics do you know about Joseph that would be good for all fathers to have? Take some time to pray for fathers and husbands, that they would lead godly lives and make godly decisions.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Matthew 1:20-25.** What two names are given to Jesus in this passage?
- (b) What does the angel say is significant about the name, "Jesus?" Also read John 3:17 and Acts 5:31.
- (c) Read Psalm 130. About whom is the psalmist speaking? According to verse 8, who will redeem Israel from their sins?
- (d) What do these two names reveal about the nature of "the babe in the manger?" What do they tell us about his purpose (Matthew 18:11; Luke 19:10; John 12:47-48)?
- (e) What did the disciples proclaim about Jesus (Acts 4:10-12; 13:38-39)? Why is there "salvation in no other name?"
- (f) *Family:* Read Matthew 1:20-25. Talk about the names of Jesus. What does the name of "Jesus" mean? Why was it given to him? Why did they call Jesus "Emmanuel?" Pray that God would give you an opportunity to tell someone today about the reason for Jesus' coming.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Isaiah 7:1-9.** What problem was faced by Ahaz? What assurance did God give him?
- (b) Read Isaiah 7:10-14. How does God attempt to give him greater assurance?
- (c) Ahaz's response seems like faith—why is it not faith? How does he "weary God?"
- (d) What promise does he receive as a sign? How does that promise become a judgment in Isaiah 8:5-10; 19-22?
- (e) How is this promise ultimately fulfilled in Jesus? How does this promise also become a judgment when a person does not believe it (John 3:16-18)?
- (f) *Family:* Read Isaiah 7:1-14. Discuss the promises of God and the birth of Jesus. Does God always keep His promises? Give some examples of some prophecies fulfilled in the birth of Jesus. Give thanks for the promises of God. Pray that you will take God at His word.

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Genesis 3:15 and Galatians 4:4-6.** How does the virgin birth completely (even to the smallest details) fulfill prophecy?
- (b) How does the virgin birth protect the sinlessness of Jesus? Compare—Luke 1:35 and Psalm 51:5.
- (c) Why is the virgin birth important to the gospel and to the death of Jesus on the cross?
- (d) If the virgin birth is not true, how would the truthfulness of Scripture be affected?
- (e) What is significant about the name "Emmanuel" and the virgin birth (Matthew 1:14-15; Isaiah 7:14)?
- (f) *Family:* Read Genesis 3:15 and Matthew 1:23. Discuss the virgin birth. How did it happen (also see Luke 1:26-35)? Why is it important? Pray that others might come to see that the birth of Jesus shows that He was God. Pray for some relatives who are not believers. Pray that some will give their lives to Christ this Christmas season.

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

- (a) **Read Romans 8:28-39.** Consider Romans 8:31. What conclusion does Paul come to about God being with us?
- (b) What kind of confidence can we have since God is with us in Romans 8:32 and Romans 8:28?
- (c) What kind of confidence can we have since God is with us according to Romans 8:33-34 and Romans 8:1?
- (d) What kind of confidence can we have since God is with us according to Romans 8:35-39 and Romans 8:18?
- (e) What promise does Jesus give us regarding being *Immanuel* (Matthew 28:18-20; John 14:15-18)? What impact should these promises have for our daily lives (Hebrews 13:5-6)?
- (f) Read Romans 8:28-29 and talk about how the presence of the Lord with us changes our outlook on life. Thank him for his promise to never leave you or forsake you.

DAY 6 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

Think back through what you have learned each day this week. Read Matthew 1:18-25. Why is the virgin birth so important? What is the significance of Jesus' name? Why is he called "Emmanuel?" Pray that the presence of the Lord might be especially evident in your worship services tomorrow so that many might realize that Jesus is "Emmanuel: God with us."

DATE: December 10, 2006

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Emmanuel

"And they shall call His name, Emmanuel, which means, God with us!"