The Heart of the Matter

12. When did Jesus really become your "Immanuel" - *God with you*?

13. How are you experiencing Jesus with you right now?

14. What message is God giving you to listen to through this passage?

15. Like Joseph, what act of obedience do you need to follow through on in your response to God's call on your life?

7601 W. Foster Ave.
Chicago, IL 60656

www.bethelcommunity.org
office@bethelcommunity.org

Life Group Study Guide

Shepherds, Wise Guys, and a King
The Beauty of the Virgin Birth
Matthew 1:18-25
For the Week of December 23, 2018

Getting Started

1. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling?

2. Do you have a favorite Christmas tree ornament? What is the story behind it?

3. What two positive qualities about your mom or dad come to mind as you recall your childhood?

LIFE GROUP is a small group ministry of
BETHEL COMMUNITY CHURCH, CHICAGO, IL
Some questions adapted from: The NIV (c) Serendipity Bible. 1996. Serendipity House. and Bible Study Fellowship International @ www.bsfinternational.org

Digging Deeper

4. What would you have been thinking if you were in Joseph's place in verse 19?

5. What would have been the most difficult aspect for Joseph and Mary in this situation?

6. How does the information from the angel in verses 20-21 change the outlook of the situation for Joseph? How do you think these things would have affected Joseph and Mary's marriage in the future?

7. How would Joseph and Mary be able to explain this situation to family and friends in a way that was believable? Or could they even share it at all?

8. What reason does verse 21 give for the birth of Jesus? What is the most incredible/miraculous aspect of this whole account?

9. How do you think Joseph and Mary thought about being parents to a child who would "save His people from their sins?"

10. How did the birth of Jesus fulfill the prophecy concerning the coming Messiah in verse 22? What other passages do you know that speak of the coming Messiah? (Genesis 3:15; Deuteronomy 18:15, 18; Psalm 16; Isaiah 7:14; 9:6-7; 52:13-53:12; Daniel 7:13-14)

11. What is remarkable about Joseph's obedience in verses 24-25?