



THE JOURNEY FROM MANGER TO MESSIAH PART 1 - The Manger

Immanuel: God With Us in Our Chaos

READ: Isaiah 7:14 and Matthew 1:18–23 and John 1:14

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- 1) In Isaiah 7, God promises a sign so supernatural that only He could do it—a virgin conceiving and giving birth to a Son called Immanuel. What does it tell you about God’s heart that He chose this kind of sign to reassure fearful, discouraged people?
- 2) Matthew emphasizes that Mary was betrothed, “before they came together,” and that the child was “of the Holy Spirit.” How does the reality of the virgin birth shape your confidence that Jesus really is both fully God and fully human?
- 3) Think about Joseph’s response: his first instinct is mercy, not revenge, and then God meets him in a dream and invites him into the story. Where have you seen God step into your own confusion or “Joseph moments” and bring clarity or calling?
- 4) Pastor G said, “Christmas teaches us that God does His best work not on perfect stages, but in imperfect stables... and He whispers, ‘You are not alone. I am with you.’” What do you think/feel when you hear that? Where does that truth intersect with your life this Christmas?

Bethlehem and the God Who Orchestrates History

READ: Micah 5:2 and Luke 2:1–7 and Proverbs 21:1

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- 1) Micah calls Bethlehem “too little” to be counted, yet God chooses it as the birthplace of the King whose origins are “from the days of eternity.” How does God’s choice of a tiny, overlooked town challenge our usual ideas of importance and influence?
- 2) In Luke 2, it looks like Caesar’s census is in charge, but in reality it’s carrying Joseph and Mary right into God’s promise. Have you ever looked back and realized that what felt like “bureaucracy” or inconvenience was actually God’s choreography in your life?
- 3) Pastor G said, “What looks like bureaucracy on the surface is actually divine choreography underneath.” Where in your current circumstances (*health, finances, family, work, politics*) do you most need to remember that God is not outmaneuvered or surprised?
- 4) Pastor G said, “Christmas reminds us that God’s sovereignty isn’t always loud; but it’s always steady... A sovereign God... moving through ordinary events... to keep extraordinary promises... for the sake of love.” What do you think/feel when you hear that? How might that steady sovereignty help you face 2026 with more trust and less fear?

Majesty in the Manger: Who This Child Really Is

READ: Isaiah 9:6–7 and Luke 2:8–14 and Colossians 1:15–20

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- 1) Isaiah 9 holds together, “A child will be born” and “a son will be given.” How do those two phrases—born (*humanity*) and given (*divinity*)—help you understand who Jesus is as both fully God and fully man?
- 2) Look at the four titles: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. Which of those names do you most need Jesus to be for you right now, and why?
- 3) The angels announce “good news of great joy... for all the people,” and heaven explodes in worship over this birth. Why do you think heaven responds so dramatically to this particular Baby?

How does that correct shallow or sentimental views of Christmas?

4) Pastor G said, "Look at the manger and see the Majesty. See the King who came low so He could lift you up." What do you think/feel when you hear that? How might seeing Jesus as King—not just Baby—change the way you worship and live this Christmas season?

Light in the Dark: Christmas as the Sunrise

READ: Isaiah 9:1–2 and Matthew 4:12–16 and John 8:12

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1) Isaiah speaks of "no more gloom" and a "great light" shining in Galilee of the Gentiles—the very place that first tasted invasion and contempt. What does it say about God that He chooses the darkest, most wounded places as the first targets of His light?

2) Matthew 4 says Jesus intentionally settled in Capernaum "to fulfill what was spoken through Isaiah," bringing light to those "sitting in darkness." Where do you see Jesus doing that in the Gospels, and where have you seen Him do that in your own story?

3) Jesus says, "I am the Light of the world... whoever follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life." What "dark places" (*fear, grief, sin, confusion, disappointment*) do you most need to invite His Light into right now?

4) Pastor G said, "Christmas is the announcement that your darkness is not final... Christmas is the sunrise (*Son Rise*) in humanity's long night." What do you think/feel when you hear that? How could you practically respond to that truth this week—in your prayers, your attitude, your relationships, or your habits?