

Immanuel, God With Us
Matthew 1:1-25
Key Verse: 1:22-23

GOD WITH HIS PEOPLE FOR 42 GENERATIONS (1--17)

1. What were God's promises to Abraham? (Ge12:1--3; 17:6; 22:18) To David? (2Sa7:12--13,16) How is God's faithfulness in keeping these promises revealed in the history of the patriarchs? (2--6a) In the history of the kings of Judah? (6b--11) During and after the Babylonian exile? (12--17; Ps145:13--14)
2. Note the unusual mothers Matthew names (3,5,6,16); what might be his intention in including them here? How had they overcome their desperate situations with faith and borne sons who were included in Jesus' genealogy? What does this reveal about God's vision for world salvation?
3. How is God's grace revealed in Judah's story? (3) In David's story? (6b) Note how only David is called "King" (6a; 1Ki15:5). How did God maintain David's kingdom by his grace through the reigns of good and evil kings in Judah? (7--11)

GOD WITH US: JESUS, OUR SAVIOR KING (18--25)

4. How is Joseph described? (16,20,19a). When he learned of his fiancée Mary's pregnancy, what did he decide? (18,19b) How did God help him change his mind? (20--21,24--25) What can we learn here from Joseph? About the lineage of Jesus? (Ro1:3)
5. What was unique about Jesus' conception? (18,20) What is the significance that he was "conceived by the Holy Spirit"? (Php2:6; Col2:9; Heb2:17; 1Ti2:5) Read verse 21. How is he uniquely qualified to save all people from their sins? (Heb4:15; 9:12--14)
6. Read verses 22--23. How did God finally fulfill his promises in the birth of Jesus? What can we learn here about God, especially his humility and his love? (Jn1:14; 3:16) How was Immanuel Jesus with his people during his life and ministry? (4:15--16,23--24; 8:17; 11:28--30; 12:20--21; 28:20)
7. How was Immanuel Jesus especially meaningful to the author, Matthew? (9:9--13) At this Christmas, how is this message a source of comfort and encouragement to us personally and nationally?