

Immanuel: God With Us (II)  
Matthew 1:18-25

1. Review God's covenant promises to Abraham and David and how the birth of Jesus fulfilled these promises (1:1,16--17) What unusual thing happened to Mary? (18) To be our Savior, why did Jesus have to be conceived by the Holy Spirit? (Heb4:15; Col1:19)
2. When he heard the news of his fiancée's pregnancy, how did Joseph react, and what does this show about him? (18b--19) What is the significance of his being called "son of David"? (20a) Why might he have been afraid? How did God reassure him? (20b)
3. Read verse 21. What can we learn here about the identity and mission of Mary's son? Why is sin such a serious problem? (Think about its nature and consequences [Ge2:16--17; Isa1:4--6; Gal6:7--8].) In what sense are we all sinners? (Ro3:23) How did Jesus save us from our sins? (Isa53:5)
4. Read verses 22--23. How did Jesus' birth fulfill prophecy? (Isa7:14; 8:8b,10; 9:6) What does it show us about his true identity? About God?
5. What did Joseph do? (24--25) How does this reveal his reverence for God and selfless love for Mary? What important role did he play in God's redemptive work and history?
6. Read verse 23 again. Think about the meaning of the name "Immanuel." How was Jesus with the sick, with sinners and with his disciples? (Mt8:16--17; 9:9,12--13) How is he still with us today? (18:20; 28:20) How is this the best news to you at this Christmas season?