

Fulfilled

HIS PROMISE KEPT. OUR LONGING MET.

OPENING UP

Share about a time that you did something or bought something that you thought would “change your life” but failed your expectations.

TEXT**A Surprise Arrival | Matthew 1:18-25**

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

²³“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall call his name Immanuel”

(which means, God with us). ²⁴When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

Isaiah 7:14

¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

MESSAGE OUTLINE

Big Idea: In Jesus, God comes to be with us!

1. The virgin conception. (vv. 18 – 20, 23)
2. The birth of a “son.” (vv. 21 – 25, 23)

DISCUSSION



- Matthew tells us that Jesus fulfilled Isaiah's prophecy of a son being born to a virgin. How does this emphasis on fulfilled prophecy help us to trust that Jesus is the long-awaited Messiah who can save us?
- Fill in the blank with any words that come to mind: God____Us. What do our answers reveal about our belief and relationship with God? What do you think most people in the world would use to fill in the blank? What do those answers say about what the world thinks of God?
- How does the name Immanuel, *God with us*, summarize the gospel? Read Ephesians 2:1-10 aloud as a group. Notice where you see the word *with* and describe how it changes our relationship with God.
- The fact that God is with us changes both our present reality and our eternity.
 - How does knowing that Jesus is always with us (see Matthew 28:20) change the way that we are able to live, to relate to people, and to handle the difficulties of life?
 - What hope does it give you to read the promise in Revelation 21:3 about God's presence with his people for all eternity?

LIFE CHALLENGE



Knowing that Jesus is Immanuel, *God with us*, gives us hope and confidence in difficult and uncertain times. God has given us the precious gift of his presence.

Think of someone in your life who doesn't have a relationship with God. Discuss ways that you can demonstrate to this person the "with" nature of God's love for us. How can you be present in this person's life this week—offering love and relationship in their joys or hardships, and just being their friend? Pray together as a Life Group for these individuals and ask God to give you opportunities to share how he wants to be *with* them through Jesus.

CLOSING PRAYER



Dear Lord, thank you for fulfilling your Old Testament promises in the birth of Jesus. Thank you for the confidence this gives us that Jesus is the Messiah who saves and Immanuel, *God with us*. Please let that truth change us this week. May the assurance of your presence with us each day calm our anxieties and bring us peace, joy, and confidence. You are *with us*!

We ask that this will also change the way we love those around us—through our very presence in walking alongside them, just like you sent Jesus to walk alongside us. May the way we live and speak point others to the hope that your presence gives us. Amen.

FULFILLED WEEK 1