

Advent – Old Fashioned Family Christmas 2019

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December 22nd, 2019

**Small Group Discussion Questions**

**The situation Jesus was born into was really complicated**

It was full of intrigue, possible distrust and relational breakdown.

\*What do you imagine the thoughts and feelings of Joseph were at the time of Jesus' birth? Mary's?

**Read and discuss Luke 2:1-7(NIV)**

*In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. <sup>2</sup> (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) <sup>3</sup> And everyone went to their own town to register.*

*<sup>4</sup> So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. <sup>5</sup> He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup> While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, <sup>7</sup> and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.*

**Read and discuss Matthew 1:18-24(NIV)**

*<sup>18</sup> This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.*

*<sup>20</sup> But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus because he will save his people from their sins."*

*<sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: <sup>23</sup> "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").*

*<sup>24</sup> When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife.*

\*What does these passages show us about God? About people?

\*What are these passages saying to you? Is there something here to share with someone else?

**In the midst of our really complicated – God with us**

He shows up in every circumstance.

\*How have you found hope in tension filled situations?

\*What does Immanuel – God with you – look like in the midst of your current circumstances?