



Advent- Peace
Matthew 1:18-25
Study Guide

Big Idea: The Incarnation of Christ is the Bedrock of our Peace

1. Discuss the idea that '**shalom**' peace is not the absence of problems, but a deep sense of being complete, even in the midst of difficult circumstances. Discuss how shalom is directly related to the presence of God with us. (see also John 14:27 and 1 Thess. 3:16).

2. The Incarnation of Christ.

"Now 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." Matthew 1:18 (see also Luke 1:35).

Discuss why the virgin birth is so central to our Christian faith. What are the implications of the incarnation of Christ?

3. The Anxiety of Joseph.

"And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream..." Matthew 1:19-20a:

Discuss the shame, betrayal, implications of the Jewish law, and the financial implications for Joseph. What must he have been feeling? Share a time when your world was rocked and you felt anxious.

3. The Presence of God.

"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. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." Matthew 1:20b-21:

Share a time when the presence of God became a calming factor in your life?

4. The Promises of God.

"All 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)." Matthew 1:22-23:

God allowed the story of wicked Ahaz, in Isaiah 7:14, to become the pre-cursor for the prediction of the virgin birth. Notice that God is fulfilling His purposes, even through bad things. How is it calming to you to know that things are not just random? God is above it all. Discuss.

5. Becoming Shalom.

"When 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."

Matthew 1:24-25

Joseph let go...

1. ...of what others would think of him (shame)
2. ...of law and punishment (performance)
3. ...of what life "should" be like. (false-self)

What do you need to let go of, to enter back into God's rest?

Take a few minutes to pray for each other.

Matthew 1:18-25 **Christ our Expectation**

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Peace-Shalom

John 14:27

"In this world you will have trouble, shalom I leave with you. My shalom I give to you; not as the world gives, give I to you. "

1 Thessalonians 3:16

"Now may the Lord of 'shalom' himself give you 'shalom' always in all ways. The Lord be with all of you."

I. The Incarnation of Christ (v.18)

¹⁸ Now 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.

Luke 1:35

"And the angel answered her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God.'"

***The significance of the incarnation.**

***The deity of Christ.**

The implications of the virgin birth: It makes God close and personal.

1 John 1:1-4

"That which we have seen...we proclaim to you...our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. ⁴And we are writing these things so that your joy may be complete."

Romans 5:1

"Therefore now, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God, through our Lord Jesus Christ."

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II. The Anxiety of Joseph (v.19-21)

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...

Shame, Law, Relational, Financial

III. The Presence of God (v.20-21)

"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."

IV. The Promises of God (v.22-23)

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).

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V. Becoming Shalom (v.24-25)

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.

A. Joseph let go...

1. ...of what others thought of him. (shame)
2. ...of law and punishment. (performance)
3. ...of what life "should" be like. (false-self)

B. Joseph became Shalom (complete)

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