



Sermon Discussion Questions

"Advent Attitudes"

Matthew 1:18-25

December 4, 2016

Visit the **Sermons** page on this website to see full video.

Openers:

Think of something you once strongly desired (a car, something for your home, a work promotion, a special relationship, etc.). When you got it, did it fulfill your expectations? Why or why not?

Do you know how your name was chosen? Does your name have a particular meaning and if so, what is it?

Questions: [The following questions are meant to supplement the sermon, to offer further points of interaction with the selected text. Feel free to ask your group your own questions regarding the sermon or text.]

1. What is the most striking aspect of this story of Jesus' conception?
2. What character in this passage do you most resonate with and why?
3. What does this passage tell us about Jesus' origin and destiny?
4. What reason does Matthew give as to why Jesus was born (v 21)? See Isaiah 7:14.
5. Jesus was called Immanuel -- "God with us." What do you think about viewing Jesus as a role model? He's too holy or set apart to be a role model? He's not a role model, he's the Savior? He's the ultimate role model?

Application:

6. When did Jesus become a warm person to you -- more than just a name? Elaborate.
7. How has knowing Jesus involved you in a search or journey?
8. How have you experienced Jesus as Immanuel in your life lately?
9. How can your group be praying for you this Advent?

*These questions were adapted from *The NIV Quiet Time Bible* (InterVarsity, 1996) and *The Serendipity Bible for Groups* (Zondervan, 1998).