



## Week of January 8 - a

### Scripture: Mt 1:22-23

**Main Idea:** Matthew begins by telling us how God sent his only son to save us. His name would be Jesus, meaning God saves. But he's also referred to as Immanuel, which means God with us. Our creator not only loves us from afar, but he loves us by coming near us and being with us.

#### Questions

**Preschool:** Baby Jesus had a 2nd name as well as Jesus. The name was Immanuel. It means "God with us" because God had sent his son to be with us. When you get scared, who do you want to come to be near you? If I was hurt or crying, how would you come comfort me? (Have them demonstrate, hug, etc.)

**Grade school:** Besides the name Jesus, what other name was prophesied that he would have? Why that name? Why didn't God just have someone else die on the cross for sins instead of his son Jesus? (A: the sacrifice had to be sinless. Only Jesus (who was also God) could be sinless)

**Teen:** Besides the name Jesus, what other name did he have? What did that name mean? When you feel insecure, nervous, or scared what do you do to comfort yourself, or what helps? Do you ever pray? Why or why not? Do you know how to pray in those times? The name Immanuel is reminding us God doesn't stay far from us, but he wants us to pray for help because he is always near us.

**Adult:** Jesus means "God saves" and Immanuel means "God with us." Do we need to be reminded that God is truly with us and why?

### PRAYER REQUESTS

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PRAY:  
For a closer relationship with God.

### Monthly Memory Verse

#### Psalm 5:8 (ESV)

<sup>8</sup> Lead me, O LORD, in your righteousness because of my enemies; make your way straight before me.



## Week of January 8 - b

### Scripture: Mt 1:24-25

**Main Idea:** Joseph didn't understand at first, about Mary's pregnancy. But an angel explains everything to him. No doubt he still had questions, reservations, and fears. But when he awakes, he does as God commanded him and was faithful.

#### Questions

**Preschool:** Sometimes is it hard to obey mom/dad/grandparents when you don't understand why? But God wants children to obey even if they don't always understand why. Is God proud of you when you do that?

**Grade school:** Joseph is going to act as the earthly father of the savior of God's people, Jesus. What about that do you think was exciting to Joseph? What about it might have scared Joseph?

**Teen:** Joseph is betrothed to Mary (engaged), and she was a virgin, but became pregnant. An angel explains in a dream that the baby is Jesus (the Messiah) and from the Holy Spirit. Do you think this was difficult for Joseph to believe and accept? Do you think it was challenging for Joseph to raise Jesus knowing he wasn't his biological son?

**Adult:** If you were Joseph what might have caused you to doubt this whole explanation from the angel?

#### PRAYER REQUESTS

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#### PRAY:

For God to help us do his will, even during times we don't understand and have doubts and fears.

#### Monthly Memory Verse

##### Psalm 5:8 (ESV)

<sup>8</sup> Lead me, O LORD, in your righteousness because of my enemies; make your way straight before me.