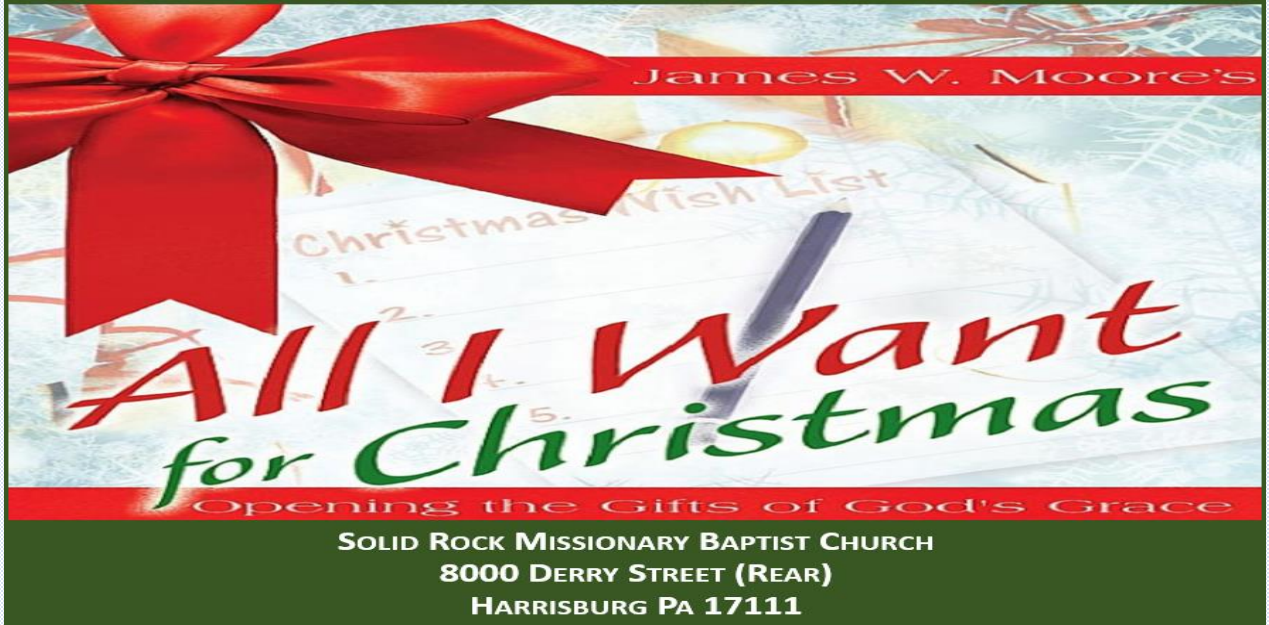


SRMBC FAMILY BIBLE STUDY



All I Want For Christmas - Opening The Gifts of God's Grace

SRMBC Bible Study Schedule Nov – Dec

Date	Lesson Topic	Scripture
11/20/2019	The Gift of Good News	Matthew 1:18 – 25
11/27/2019	Thanksgiving Break	No Study
12/4/2019	The Gift of a New Understanding	Luke 1:39 – 56
12/11/2019	The Gift of a Strong Foundation	Joshua 24:14 – 15
12/18/2019	The Gift of a New Style of Living	Matthew 23: 23 – 26

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Lesson 1: *The Gift of Good News*

Matthew 1:18 – 25

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Group Discussion: Describe something you once strongly desired (for example, a car, TV, stereo or special relationship). When you got it, did it fulfill your expectations? Explain why or why not.



Javier Martinez (Robert Amaya) is an immigrant struggling to provide for his family after being laid off when a construction company went over budget. While job-hunting, he walks down an alley asking God what He wants him to do.

Questions

- How do you think the loss of the job opportunity initially affect Javier?
- How does God the loss of the opportunity lead to a blessing for Javier and Adam?
- It what ways did the this experience affect Javier and his family?
- Can you think of ways we can express the Good News of Christmas despite the problem we face?

Who Were Mary and Joseph?

Mary The Virgin: The Mother Of Our Lord.

- She was of the tribe of Judah and of the lineage of David.
- She was a cousin to Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist.
- She was engaged to Joseph of Nazareth; but with child Holy Ghost,
- She became the mother of Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the world.
- Mary's is seen at the foot of the cross and has been entrusted to be cared by the Apostle John.
- Mary was with the disciples in the upper room to receive the Holy Spirit with power. (Acts 1:14)

Joseph: The Foster-father Of Our Lord

- After discovering Mary with child, Joseph received angelic visitations to reassure and direct him.
- He is called a "just man." and of the house and lineage of David
- He lived at Nazareth in Galilee (Luk 2:4).
- He was by trade a carpenter (Mat 13:55).
- He is last mentioned when Jesus was twelve years old.
- It is probable that he died before Jesus entered on his public ministry.



Joseph and Mary

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Matthew 1:18-21 (NKJV)

Christ Born of Mary

18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit.

19 Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly.

20 But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.

21 And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins."

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Matthew 1:22 -25 (NKJV)

22 So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying:

23 "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us."

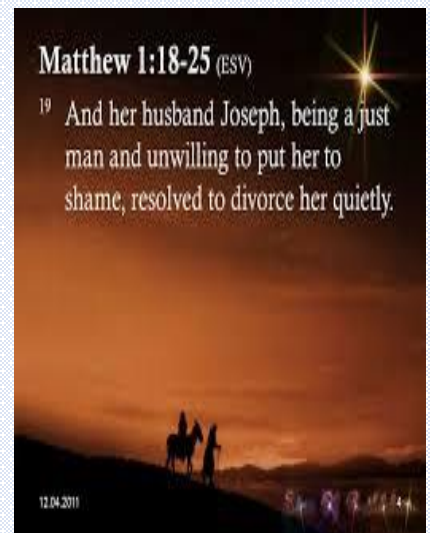
24 Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife,

25 and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name Jesus.

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1. How did Joseph react when he first heard the news of Mary's pregnancy?

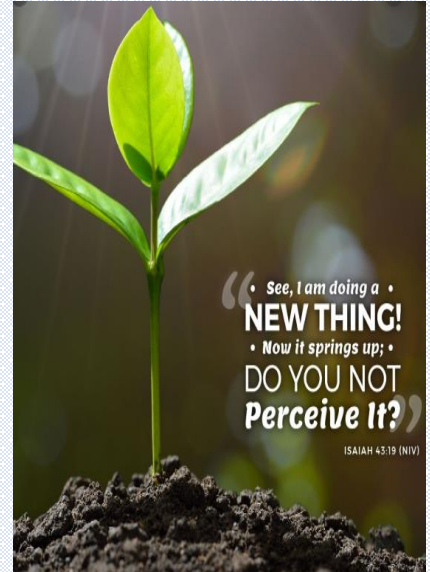
- **He Was Disappointed** – Seeing the Mary that He loved being moved by God to Something out of this world that did not (from his perspective)
- **He Was Disillusioned** – Not knowing how He would fit into the Plan of God and the life of Mary so he sought a way to release Mary from marriage obligation in a way that would be the best for her.
- **He Was Determined** – With the limited information, He still had a desire to do what was best for Mary and the Will of God - even though it would cost him the woman he loved and the marriage he desired.



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2. How hard do you think it was for him eventually to receive this message as “good news”?

- It took a “move of God” to show Joseph to see this confusing situation as Good News.
- Once he received it, he did not question or doubt the instruction.
- He obeyed immediately (as soon as he awakened) and took his wife unto himself.
- He was able to patiently wait – putting his desires on hold because of seeing God's bigger picture.



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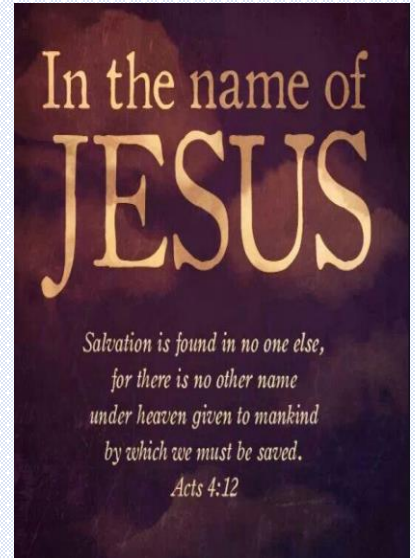
3. In a dream, Joseph receives a visit from an angel (vv. 16-24). What comfort would the angel's message have brought to Joseph?

The Angels Message	Joseph's Comfort
"Joseph, son of David,	Comfort – God knows Joseph/You (by name) and our situation.
do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife,	Courage – Don't be afraid of this situation – Mary still yours.
for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.	Calling - You will still be together but for a higher purpose. What is going on although uncomfortable and unusual is a "God Thing"
And she will bring forth a Son	Confirmation – What God started He will finish what He started, and He knows the end from the beginning (The Child will be Born and will be a Son).
and you shall call His name Jesus	Consecration – Joseph is set apart to watch over the One who has a special Name (Jesus – Jehovah is Savior).
for He will save His people from their sins."	Commission – The purpose for this whole situation is to bring God's Plan of Salvation to Israel and the entire world.

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4. What is the importance of the Name (Jesus) that Joseph was instructed by the Angel to give to this Child?

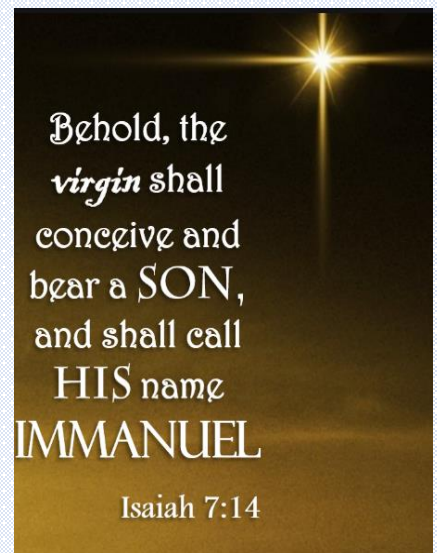
- **It is a Prophesied Name** – His Name Shall be called Jesus – Set apart even before the foundation of the World – and shown in Types and Shadows throughout the OT.
- **It is a Purposeful Name** - Jesus Name means Jehovah is Salvation He will save His people and every People.
- **It is a Powerful Name** – It is the Only Name that saves from sin's power, sin's penalty and ultimately the presence of sin.



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5. What is the significance of the Name "Immanuel" as it relates to the Birth and Work of Jesus?

- Immanuel (also rendered Emmanuel) a masculine Hebrew name meaning "God with us" or "God is with us."
- Jesus fulfilled Isaiah's prophecy (Isaiah 7:14) because He was literally "God with us"
- Jesus is Immanuel. He is not a partial revelation of God with us; Jesus is God with us in all His fullness: "
- Immanuel is our Savior (1 Timothy 1:15). God sent His Son to live among us and die for us on the cross.
- Our Immanuel will be with us forever (Matt. 28:20, Heb.13:5). Nothing can ever separate us from God and His love for us in Christ (Romans 8:35–39).



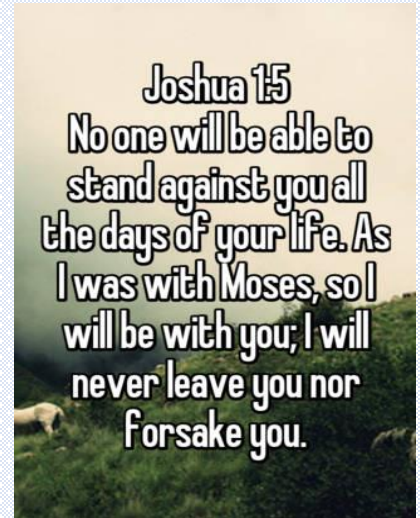
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6. Describe a time in your life when you have felt especially close to God, as if God were very near to you. How does the memory of that moment inspire faith or hope for you?

At the Hampton Minster's Conference – During the 1st night of Praise and Worship – they sang “I really Love the Lord!” (A song I had been singing over the past year at church).

It lets me know that no matter what I am going through or wherever I am – God knows me and sees me.

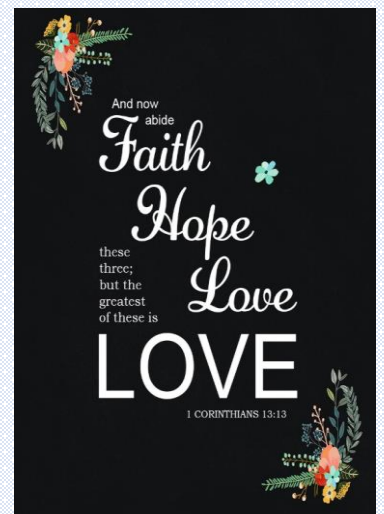
El – Ro'iy: God sees me (Gen. 16:13)



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7. Where do you see faith, hope, and love in the account of Mary's pregnancy and Jesus' birth in Matthew 1:18-25? What is the relationship between these three virtues in that story?

Faith	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife. did as the angel of the Lord commanded took to him his wife. and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son
Hope	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> she was found with child of the Holy Spirit for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,
Love	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> not wanting to make her a public example. was minded to put her away secretly. His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.



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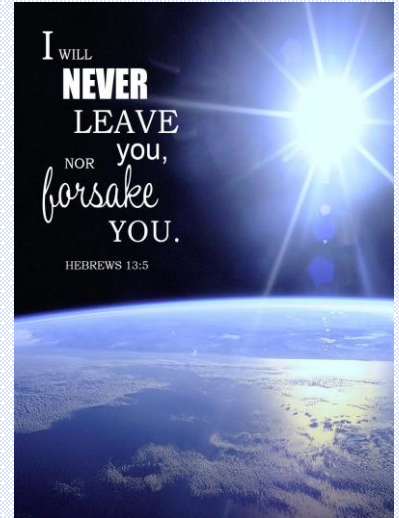
8. At the beginning of this season of Advent, what reasons do you see for hope in your life or in our world? How do these circumstances point to the presence of God with us?

My Life:

- I see God moving in my Life, my church – an real opportunity for growth
- Learning more about the Word – my understanding is getting deeper
- I have gotten older and have a better sense of destiny (Finishing Strong)

The World

- The world is ripe for the Gospel – especially during this Christmas season.
- Although things are getting worse it is a sign that Jesus' return is even closer
- The Mission to reach the lost is more important than ever. God will provide the resources to get it done.



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Advent Prayer

God, you are with us. May this word from you give us reassurance and hope for the presence and the future. Give us eyes to see you and ears to hear you. And give us hearts to receive the good news of Emmanuel. Grant us faith, hope, and love that are grounded in your presence.

In Jesus' Name we pray.

Amen.