

# The Gift of the Father: His Son

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December 4, 2016

**Open:** When you think about God the Father, what words would you use to describe Him? How have these impressions affected your relationship with Him?

**Read & Discuss:** Matthew 1:18-23.

1. If you were to explain the account of Jesus' birth to someone who has never heard it before, what aspects of the story might they find surprising or hard to believe? What helps you to believe the account of Jesus' miraculous birth?
2. How do you imagine Joseph felt when he heard the angel's words in this dream (vv. 20-21)? Have you ever found yourself in a similar situation, where God was clearly taking you on a path you weren't expecting? How did you respond to the situation? From Joseph's example, what can we learn about how we should respond when God takes us down unexpected paths?
3. In verse 23, we see that this child would be called Immanuel, meaning "God with us." Does it surprise you that God would want to be with us—and have us be with Him? Why or why not? What does it tell us about God the Father to know He desires to be in relationship with us? How does that fact affect your relationship with God?

**Read & Discuss:** John 3:16-17

4. John 3:16 tells us that God loved the world in the giving of His Son. How does the gift of His Son reveal God the Father's love for us? What would be an appropriate response to this?

**Read & Discuss:** Isaiah 9:6-7

5. Isaiah 9:6-7 speaks of the kind of world the Father intends to establish through the work of His Son. What do these verses tell you about the Father's heart? What are you especially looking forward to about God's Eternal Kingdom? Why? What does Scripture emphasize about the glory of God's Kingdom?

**Apply:** Looking at all three passages, how would you describe the purpose of God in giving us the gift of His Son? How can this purpose be reflected in things you do over the Christmas season?

**Pray:** Ask God to increase your awe of Him as seen through the gift of His Son this Advent Season. Pray that those you know who don't have saving faith will come to embrace the truth of the Gospel this Christmas.



*What's inside*  
**THE BOX?**

## **Matthew 1:18-23**

<sup>[18]</sup> 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. <sup>[19]</sup> And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly.

<sup>[20]</sup> But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "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. <sup>[21]</sup> She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." <sup>[22]</sup> All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

<sup>[23]</sup> "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us).

## **John 3:16-17**

<sup>[16]</sup> "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. <sup>[17]</sup> For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

## **Isaiah 9:6-7**

<sup>[6]</sup> For to us a child is born,  
to us a son is given;  
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,  
and his name shall be called  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

<sup>[7]</sup> Of the increase of his government and of peace  
there will be no end,  
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,  
to establish it and to uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time forth and forevermore. (ESV)