

The Miracle

The Miracle of the Virgin Birth

WEEK 2

WARM-UP

- Think about something you started or made from scratch. Why did you do it? What makes it memorable?
- Name one person you enjoy being with. What makes them approachable?
- How do you show your love for someone? To what extreme will you go for them?

WORD *²⁰But 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**. ²¹She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for **he will save his people from their sins**." 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**). **MATTHEW 1:20-23***

(Read also **LUKE 1:34-38**.)

Christmas is indeed a celebration, for God's promised Messiah has come. The Jews were eagerly expecting the Messiah to become their King and save them from oppression. Since He would come from the line of David, their greatest king, people thought that He would arrive in a grand manner. However, the actual birth of the Savior happened in the most unlikely of circumstances. Regardless, God had a plan that turned the ordinary into something beautiful. Today, let's look at this Christmas miracle, how God worked through impossibilities and changed perspectives during the birth of Jesus.

1 | Jesus was miraculously conceived by the power of the Spirit.

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." **MATTHEW 1:20**

When Mary was told by the angel that she would bear a son, it seemed impossible to her. She was still a virgin and had not been intimate with Joseph or another man (Matthew 1:18; Luke 1:34). God revealed that the Holy Spirit would do a miracle in and through Mary and *come upon her* (Luke 1:35), something that was outside the ordinary means of conception. It was God's way of showing that Jesus would be born sinless and holy, different from every child born after Adam who fell from sin. How does this truth shape the way you view God's plan of redemption?

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2 | Jesus is God with us—a miracle we can experience every day.

*"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, **God with us**).*

MATTHEW 1:23

In the days of the prophet Isaiah, God promised to send a man whose name means *God with us* (Isaiah 7:14). Hundreds of years later, this prophecy was fulfilled exactly how God said it would happen. The coming of Jesus was God's way of saying that He is with us in the most relatable way—by being

born as a man to be like us and to be with us. Today, God still chooses to be with us, regardless of our circumstance. How has God shown you that He is with you at a seemingly ordinary place or time?

3 | Jesus came to save His people from their sins.

“She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” **MATTHEW 1:21**

The conception and birth of Jesus in itself was truly a miracle. As He grew in age, wisdom, and stature, Jesus performed many signs and wonders. But He came to do the greatest miracle of all—saving *His people from their sins*. The animal sacrifices and offerings man made to God were nowhere near perfect to completely free us from sin. But because God loves His people, He chose to give His Son to become the ultimate sacrifice. How has your life changed since you started believing in the finished work of Jesus on the cross?

Through Jesus, God worked through every impossibility in sin and the world. He is the God of impossibilities. Just as Mary trusted and submitted to God’s will, we too can do the same, *for nothing will be impossible with God* (Luke 1:37–38). As we trust God for miracles, may we be a channel of His miracles to others and make Him known.

APPLICATION

- Is God calling you to birth or start something that seems impossible? How may you respond in light of today's word?
- Do you believe that God is with you today? What are some areas in your life where you need to be aware of His presence?
- Are there friends or family members you are praying for to receive Jesus' gift of salvation? How may you become a testimony of His miraculous grace to them this week?

PRAYER

- Praise God that nothing is too hard for Him and He is faithful to fulfill His word. Thank God for the grace to become more than conquerors through Jesus.
- Pray that you would be more aware of God's presence that is with you anytime, anywhere. Ask God to align your thoughts and ways to His.
- Pray for someone you know who needs to hear about Jesus, God's greatest gift to humanity. Pray that God would give you the boldness and compassion to preach the gospel to them this season.



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