

# Growth Group Questions

Advent 4, December 18, 2022

## Growing Together

Share with the group your favorite CHURCH Christmas tradition. How does it help you celebrate our Savior's birth?

## Into the Word – Isaiah 7:10-14

1. Ahaz was NOT a good king. His words about not putting God to the test sound good but go against God's command. Look at the chapter a little more and identify what the situation was and what God was trying to tell Ahaz.
2. The virgin birth would be the ultimate sign given by God that he is delivering his people. Not from earthly armies but from sin itself. Why is the virgin birth a NECESSARY truth for Christians to believe?

## Into the Word – Romans 1:1-7

1. In what way was Jesus "appointed the Son of God in power" by the Holy Spirit? (In other words, what action in verse 4 proved that Jesus is the Son of God?)
2. Why do you think the ancient church chose to use this reading to go with the Gospel lesson?

## Into the Word – Matthew 1:18-25

1. There's a temptation for a preacher to look at Joseph in this text instead of Jesus. While there isn't enough time in a sermon, what good qualities of Joseph shine through here and how can he serve as an example to us?

2. Which name of Jesus speaks of a greater miracle to you? *Immanuel* (the miracle of the incarnation) or *Jesus* (the miracle of God's grace to save sinners). Justify your answer to the group.
3. In the sermon I referenced Ephesians 1 and 1 Peter 1 talking about Jesus being the Savior from before the world's creation. Who is chosen in each of these texts and what does it mean?
  - Ephesians 1:3-4 *3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight.*
  - 1 Peter 1:18-20 *For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake.*
4. How does seeing Christmas through Joseph's eyes help us keep the miracle of Christmas in focus rather than getting lost in traditions?

## Closing Prayer

Savior Jesus, bless us in your saving name to grow in grace and knowledge. Bless us to be united as your children encouraging and spurring each other on to lives of faithful service prompted by our great mercy. Amen.