



God with Us

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One of the fundamental beliefs of the Christian faith is that Jesus has always been, and will always be, God. We also believe that He came to earth and became fully man, while remaining fully God. That's the story of Christmas. That's what we mean by "incarnation." So why does that matter? Let's study that.

Where Am I Today?

- 1) What is the most important part of the Christmas story to you?
- 2) If you are a believer, what part of having a "personal relationship with Jesus" affects your daily life? Or does it affect your life?

Into the Bible

- 3) **Read** Hebrews 2:17-18 and Hebrews 4:14-16. Why did God create a plan that required the virgin birth of Jesus? (Hint: It's also the reason why the Son of God would submit to such a drastic measure.)



- 4) If you were asked to create a word picture of God the Father, what adjectives and descriptors would you use? Now, look at the passages below for a biblical view of God: Father, Son, and Spirit.
- a. John 14:6-7, 14:6-17
 - b. Hebrews 1:1-3
 - c. Matthew 14:14, 15:32, 20:34

How Does This Apply?

- 5) What was Jesus able to accomplish, walking among us in a human body, that He could not have accomplished had He remained in Heaven and not taken on our form?
- 6) How was Jesus' incarnation like a missionary going on a mission trip?
- 7) How does the incarnation confirm God's love to you? (For personal evaluation: Do you experience this love and grace? Do you find freedom in it? Does it make you want to share His love and grace? Or is this just a word game that you know but don't feel?)
- 8) How can you follow the example of Jesus by being "in the flesh" as a missionary where you go?



Digging Deeper: Going Further on Your Own

- 9) Jesus' virgin birth is one of the most controversial and highly debated miracles in the Bible, but believing it is crucial for understanding the nature of Christ. The crux of the debate is the Hebrew word *almah*, that is translated "virgin" in Isaiah 7:14 and is referenced in Matthew 1:23. *Almah* can be translated as either "virgin" or "maiden," but in ancient Jewish society maidens (or young girls) were virgins. Young women who were found not to be virgins when they were married were supposed to be stoned to death, as described in the Deuteronomy passage below.

The only alternative to "virgin" is to believe that Mary was a sexually immoral woman who lived a lie for the rest of her life. She would have also been raising her illegitimate son to claim that he was God; and then go on to worship Him, the lie she had fostered. Who in their right mind would claim to be the one person in human history to have a baby through the miracle of virgin pregnancy? Furthermore, why would Mary be surprised about being pregnant? Why would the Genesis and Galatians passages below refer to Jesus being born of a woman (without mentioning a man), when every genealogy in the Bible describes people as being born of a specific man/father?

Genesis 3:14-15

Deuteronomy 22:20-21

Isaiah 7:14

Luke 1:30-34

Galatians 4:4