

## **Hey, Did You Hear...**

LifeGroup Lesson  
December 17, 2017  
Matthew 1:18-25

### **OPENING PRAYER:**

If we believe that Christ is coming,  
Let us prepare the world for Christ's coming - now and in the end time.  
Let our words and deeds witness to Christ's new age.  
Let us work for peace and justice.  
May Christ truly reign as Lord of our lives.

### **WRESTLING WITH THE WORD:**

Today we study the birth story from the Gospel of Matthew. Jesus is given two names that define his role in the world – 'he saves us from our sin' and Immanuel – God with us.' Read Matthew 1:18-25

- Each of us hears God's Word in different ways; what is the heart of this passage for you?
- What do you learn about faith from Joseph?
- What does Immanuel mean in your life?
- Describe a time in your life when you knew God was with you.
- How will this scripture impact your life getting ready for Christmas?
- The theme of this week is to simplify our lives by living in the presence of God. If God is Immanuel – with us always, then how can you take more notice or stay connected?

Each of the following scriptures defines God's presence in a different way. Read the following: Psalm 139, 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5, Psalm 118, 2 Peter 1:5-8, Psalm 84

- How is God present in this scripture?
- What will I apply from this passage to my life?

### **PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:**

Mighty God, bearer of our burdens, you know our sinful thoughts and our heart's burdens. Send your angels and messengers of peace to comfort and guide us. Help us follow in the footsteps of Joseph and Mary - listening, learning, and following where you would have us go. Save us from the path of Herod - rejecting your guidance, destroying the hope you send, causing others to weep in anguish. Send angels and messengers of peace to comfort and guide us. Send your mercy and grace to reconcile and restore us, that we may be carried in the arms of your mercy. In hope and gratitude we pray.