



JESUS

LIONMAN *of* JUDAH

March 2, 2014 | Wawasee Community Bible Church | Milford, Indiana | Pastor Josh Weiland

PART 7: BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST

Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 2:1-21

Jesus Christ

We believe that Jesus Christ is God incarnate, fully God and fully man, one Person in two natures. Jesus—Israel's promised Messiah—was conceived through the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He lived a sinless life, was crucified under Pontius Pilate, arose bodily from the dead, ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father as our High Priest and Advocate.

– Article 4, EFCA Statement of Faith

WHY THE VIRGIN BIRTH IS IMPORTANT

1. It shows salvation is from God **ALONE**.
2. It fulfills **PROPHECY** (God keeps his promises).
3. It made possible the uniting of full **DEITY** and full **HUMANITY** in one person.
4. It provided for Jesus' **SINLESSNESS**.

THE VIRGIN BIRTH IS A "CLOSED-HAND" THEOLOGICAL ISSUE.*

- If Mary wasn't a virgin, the Bible isn't **TRUE**.
- If Mary wasn't a virgin, prophecy remains **UNFULFILLED**.
- If Mary wasn't a virgin, she is a **LIAR**.
- If Mary wasn't a virgin, Jesus is just **ANOTHER MAN**.

**We often speak of keeping a two-handed theology, where one hand is a closed hand and the other is an open palm. In the closed hand we hold all of the core issues of what it means biblically to be a Christian. These are things we would fight for like the good news of Jesus' death, burial and resurrection; the fact that Jesus is our sinless God who became a man to die in our place on the cross for our sins; that salvation is by grace alone through faith alone in Jesus alone. Denying these issues, we contend, is denying biblical Christianity. We hold these issues tightly, with in a closed hand. There is also a second hand, an "open palm" in which we each hold other secondary issues of faith. On these secondary issues we have convictions, but we hold them in an open palm. In other words we're not going to divide or fight over these secondary issues, but agree to disagree in an agreeable way. An easy example of this would be our beliefs concerning Jesus' return. We believe he is coming back, that's a closed fist issue that the Bible is very clear about. But we acknowledge there is room for debate concerning the exact timing of his return and the exact order of events surrounding it. That's secondary, it's an open palm issue and we can agree to disagree in an agreeable way and not divide over it.*

THREE THINGS

1. Jesus is **LIKE** us.
2. Jesus is **UNLIKE** us.
3. Jesus came to make us like **HIM**.

HOMework



Open Your Group in Prayer.

Use this as a guide, you don't have to answer every question in your group.

1. **Read Matthew 1:18-25 and Luke 2:1-20.** As Jesus took on the form of man, putting on flesh, what are some things he was experiencing for the first time?
2. Why is the virgin birth important?
3. **Read Philippians 2:5-8.** Paul says that Jesus voluntarily lived completely as a man. He did not cease to be God, but he temporarily chose not to exercise the use of some of his divine attributes such as his omnipresence (the ability to be everywhere at once). What are some other things Jesus had to lay aside to live fully as a human?
4. **Read Hebrews 12:1-2.** What was Jesus' motivation for becoming flesh and blood?
5. Read the following passages. How does each one say Jesus is like us?

Isaiah 53:1-3

Matthew 4:2

Luke 2:6-11

Luke 2:52

John 4:4-7

John 11:35

John 19:30-33

Philippians 2:7

Hebrews 2:14-17

6. Why did Jesus need to become like us? How does it affect your view of his care for you?
7. Read the following passages. how does each one say Jesus is unlike us?

John 1:1-3

John 5:16-18

John 5:31-37

John 10:30-38

Hebrews 1:1-3

Colossians 1:15-18

1 Corinthians 15:20-22; 45-57

Hebrews 2:14-3:1

8. Why is it important that Jesus is unlike us?
9. How are you growing right now to become more like Jesus?

6:7 family questions

The Bible doesn't tell us much about Jesus' adoptive father Joseph. What we *are* told, though, shows us a lot about the kind of person he was.

Read Matthew 1:18-25 together.

- **From these verses, how do you think Joseph felt about Mary?**
- **How do you think he felt about God?**

Here's one way to describe faith: Faith is believing God's word and doing what it says, no matter how I feel, because God promises a good result.

- **Based on this definition, do you think Joseph had faith? Explain.**
- **Do you have faith?**

Pray together as a family. Ask God to give you faith to believe his word and do what it says, even when it's hard to do.

These simple questions are designed to help you live out the command in Deuteronomy 6:7 to teach our kids and make God's Word a natural topic of conversation in our homes. Use them at the dinner table, in the car, or whenever you find your family together with a few moments to spare.

PRAYER GUIDE

WEEK OF MARCH 2, 2014

During your prayer time this week, let's all be praying together about the following items. Use the space at the bottom to record your personal prayer items, or requests from your 1:10 Group.

NOTE: *Due to the sensitive nature of some items on the Prayer Guide, we do not publish it online. Email the church office to sign up for the email prayer list: office@wawaseebible.com*