

Small Group Guide: The Wonder of Birth, Virgin Birth, and Rebirth

Opening Prayer & Icebreaker

Icebreaker Question: Share a memorable birth story from your family—either your own birth, your child's birth, or another family member's. What makes that story special to you?

Key Scripture References

- Genesis 1:26-27 (Creation of humanity)
 - Psalm 139:13-16 (Fearfully and wonderfully made)
 - Genesis 3:15 (The promise of redemption)
 - Isaiah 7:10-14 (The virgin birth prophecy)
 - Matthew 1:18-23 (Fulfillment of the virgin birth)
 - Luke 2:10-11 (The announcement to the shepherds)
 - John 3:1-9 (Nicodemus and being born again)
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Main Themes

1. The Wonder of Birth

God's love for life is demonstrated in the miraculous process of conception and birth.

2. The Wonder of the Virgin Birth

The incarnation—God entering human life through miraculous conception—fulfills prophecy and makes redemption possible.

3. The Wonder of Rebirth

Through Christ, we can experience spiritual rebirth and ongoing fresh starts in our relationship with God.

Discussion Questions

Section 1: The Wonder of Birth (15-20 minutes)

1. **Reflecting on Creation:** The pastor mentioned that when God created humanity, "it's like God gave himself a high five" and said everything was "very good." How does it change your perspective to know that God was pleased with creating you?

2. **Scientific Miracles:** The sermon described several medical miracles that happen during birth (lung fluid expulsion, blood circulation changes, etc.). How does understanding the complexity of birth deepen your appreciation for God as Creator?
3. **Personal Application:** Read Psalm 139:13-16 together. How does viewing yourself as "fearfully and wonderfully made" impact how you see yourself during difficult seasons?

Section 2: The Wonder of the Virgin Birth (20-25 minutes)

4. **Historical Context:** The sermon explained the "near and far fulfillment" of Isaiah 7:14. Why is it important that Old Testament prophecies had both immediate and future fulfillment? What does this tell us about God's faithfulness?
5. **The Miracle Itself:** Discuss the scientific impossibility of the virgin birth (missing male DNA, the Y chromosome). Why is the miraculous nature of Jesus's birth essential to the gospel message?
6. **God's Love for Sinners:** The pastor emphasized that "the wonder of God's love for life is also the wonder of God's love for sinful human life." How does the virgin birth demonstrate God's commitment to redeeming humanity despite our rebellion?
7. **Personal Reflection:** How does meditating on the virgin birth during this busy Christmas season help you refocus on what truly matters?

Section 3: The Wonder of Rebirth (20-25 minutes)

8. **Nicodemus's Confusion:** Read John 3:1-9 together. Why do you think Nicodemus struggled to understand what Jesus meant by being "born again"? In what ways do we sometimes approach faith like Nicodemus—looking for rules to follow rather than relationship?
9. **Religion vs. Relationship:** The sermon contrasted religion (following laws) with rebirth (relationship with God). What's the difference? How can we tell if we're living more out of religion than relationship?
10. **The Same Spirit:** Jesus said the same Spirit that conceived Him in Mary wants to come inside us and change our hearts. What does this mean practically? How have you experienced the Holy Spirit transforming you?
11. **Ongoing Fresh Starts:** The pastor mentioned that God offers "ongoing rebirths" and fresh starts throughout our lives. Can you share a time when God gave you a fresh start after a period of difficulty or wandering?
12. **Personal Inventory:** Have you been "reborn" in Christ? If so, when did that happen? If you're unsure, what questions do you have about what it means to be born again?

Key Takeaways

1. **You are a miracle.** From conception to this present moment, God has been actively involved in creating and sustaining your life.
2. **The virgin birth was scientifically impossible but divinely essential.** It demonstrates God's power and His willingness to enter human life to redeem us.
3. **Rebirth is not about following rules but about relationship.** Spiritual rebirth happens when we humbly acknowledge we can't save ourselves and put our faith in Christ.
4. **God offers fresh starts.** No matter where you are in your spiritual journey, God can bring new life and new beginnings.
5. **The Christmas season invites us to wonder.** Stepping back from the busyness to marvel at God's miraculous work brings fresh perspective.

Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge:

Choose one of the following to practice this week:

1. **Wonder Journal:** Each day this week, take 5-10 minutes to write down something about God's creative work that fills you with wonder. It could be something in nature, something about how your body works, or something about the Christmas story.
2. **Fresh Start Conversation:** If you've been spiritually sidetracked, have a conversation with God (or a trusted friend) about what fresh start you need. What would it look like to be "rebirthed" in that area of your life?
3. **Share Your Rebirth Story:** If you've experienced spiritual rebirth, share your story with someone this week—either someone in your group, a family member, or a friend who doesn't know Christ.
4. **Slow Down to Wonder:** Intentionally create space in your busy Christmas schedule to simply wonder at the miracle of the incarnation. Light a candle, read the Christmas story slowly, and let yourself be amazed.
5. **Pray for Rebirth:** Is there someone in your life who needs to experience rebirth in Christ? Commit to praying for them daily this week, asking God to open their heart to the miracle of new life in Jesus.

Reflection Questions for Personal Quiet Time

- What aspect of the sermon most captured your attention? Why?
- How has the busyness of the season kept you from experiencing wonder?
- In what area of your life do you need a fresh start or rebirth?
- How can you carry the wonder of Christmas beyond December?

Closing Prayer

Close your time together by praying for:

- Gratitude for the miracle of life and the gift of being "fearfully and wonderfully made"
- Worship for Jesus, who entered human life through the virgin birth
- Anyone in the group who needs to experience rebirth or a fresh start
- The ability to slow down and wonder during this Christmas season
- Those who don't yet know Christ, that they would encounter Him this season

Additional Resources

- **For Further Study:** Read the entire Christmas narrative in Matthew 1-2 and Luke 1-2 this week
- **Worship Song Suggestion:** "O Holy Night" - focusing on the line "Long lay the world in sin and error pining, till He appeared and the soul felt its worth"
- **Book Recommendation:** *The Case for Christmas* by Lee Strobel (explores the historical evidence for Jesus's birth)

"You are a miracle of God. And you can take a next step in your faith in him." - Pastor's closing words