

The Promise Fulfilled: The Christmas Story in Matthew and Isaiah

An 8-Week Adult Bible Study Series

Week 1 – The Promise of a Coming King

****Matthew Passage:**** Matthew 1:1–6

****Isaiah Prophecy:**** Isaiah 9:6–7

Matthew opens by tracing Jesus' genealogy back to David and Abraham — showing that the Messiah's arrival fulfills God's covenant promises. Isaiah foretold a divine ruler who would bring peace and justice.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why does Matthew begin with a genealogy? What does it reveal about Jesus' identity?
2. How does Jesus' lineage connect to God's covenant promises to Abraham and David?
3. What does Isaiah 9:6–7 teach about the character of the coming King?
4. In what ways does Jesus fulfill Israel's longings for a righteous ruler?
5. How do you see God's faithfulness through generations in this passage?
6. What "kingdom" values does Jesus bring that differ from worldly ones?
7. How does this genealogy strengthen your confidence in God's promises?

Notes:

Week 2 – The Miraculous Conception

****Matthew Passage:**** Matthew 1:18–25

****Isaiah Prophecy:**** Isaiah 7:14

Joseph learns of Mary's pregnancy and God reveals His divine plan: a virgin will conceive and bear a son called Immanuel — "God with us."

Discussion Questions:

1. What do we learn about Joseph's character in this passage?
2. Why is the virgin birth essential to understanding who Jesus is?
3. How does Matthew connect Isaiah's prophecy to Jesus' birth?
4. What does "Immanuel" mean for us personally and spiritually?
5. How did Joseph's obedience model faith in God's plan?
6. What might have been the cost for Joseph and Mary to trust God here?
7. How does this story encourage you to obey when God's plan seems impossible?

Notes:

Week 3 – The Birth of the Messiah

****Matthew Passage:**** Matthew 2:1–6

****Isaiah Prophecy:**** Isaiah 11:1–5

The Magi arrive in search of the newborn King. Matthew connects this to the prophecy of a ruler from Bethlehem who would shepherd God's people.

Discussion Questions:

8. 1. What do the Magi's journey and Herod's reaction reveal about human responses to Jesus?
9. 2. Why is Bethlehem significant in God's plan?
10. 3. How does Isaiah 11 describe the character and mission of the coming Messiah?
11. 4. What does it mean that Jesus "will shepherd" His people?
12. 5. How do these passages show God's sovereignty over nations and kings?
13. 6. How can we seek and worship Jesus like the Magi did?
14. 7. In what ways does Jesus bring peace and righteousness today?

Notes:

Week 4 – The Worship of the Wise Men

****Matthew Passage:**** Matthew 2:7–12

****Isaiah Prophecy:**** Isaiah 60:1–6

The Magi follow the star to find Jesus and worship Him with costly gifts — a fulfillment of Isaiah’s vision of nations coming to the light.

Discussion Questions:

15. 1. What motivated the Magi to travel so far to find Jesus?
16. 2. How do their gifts symbolize Jesus’ identity and mission?
17. 3. What connections can you see between Isaiah 60 and Matthew 2?
18. 4. How is Jesus the “light” to the nations?
19. 5. What can we learn from the Magi’s posture of worship and sacrifice?
20. 6. How do you personally express worship to Christ in your life?
21. 7. What does true worship look like in today’s world?

Notes:

Week 5 – The Flight to Egypt

****Matthew Passage:**** Matthew 2:13–15

****Isaiah Prophecy:**** Isaiah 49:5–6

God warns Joseph to flee to Egypt, fulfilling prophecy that His Son would be called out of Egypt. Jesus' life echoes Israel's story but brings redemption.

Discussion Questions:

22. 1. Why did God direct Joseph's family to flee to Egypt?
23. 2. How does Jesus' journey mirror Israel's history?
24. 3. What does this tell us about God's protection and providence?
25. 4. How does Isaiah 49 describe the Servant's mission to restore Israel and reach the nations?
26. 5. What does it mean for Jesus to be the true and faithful Israel?
27. 6. When has God led you through unexpected detours for His purpose?
28. 7. How does this passage deepen your trust in God's sovereignty?

Notes:

Week 6 – The Weeping in Ramah

****Matthew Passage:**** Matthew 2:16–18

****Isaiah Prophecy:**** Isaiah 40:1–5

Herod's slaughter of the infants fulfills Jeremiah's prophecy of Rachel's lament, but Isaiah foretells comfort and hope through God's coming salvation.

Discussion Questions:

29. 1. What does this tragic story teach about evil and human power?
30. 2. How does God's promise of comfort in Isaiah 40 balance this grief?
31. 3. Where do you see God's justice and mercy at work here?
32. 4. How does Jesus bring ultimate healing to a broken world?
33. 5. What can we learn about God's presence amid suffering?
34. 6. How can the Church be a source of comfort in times of loss?
35. 7. How does this passage point us toward hope in Christ's return?

Notes:

Week 7 – The Return to Nazareth

****Matthew Passage:**** Matthew 2:19–23

****Isaiah Prophecy:**** Isaiah 53:1–3

Jesus' family returns and settles in Nazareth, fulfilling prophecy that He would be "despised and rejected." The humble beginnings point to His suffering servant role.

Discussion Questions:

36. 1. Why is it important that Jesus grew up in Nazareth?
37. 2. How does Isaiah 53's description of the suffering servant fit Jesus' life?
38. 3. What does this teach us about humility and God's ways?
39. 4. How do you respond to a Savior who chose a life of lowliness?
40. 5. How does Jesus identify with our struggles and suffering?
41. 6. What does it mean to follow a humble Messiah?
42. 7. How can we reflect Christ's humility in our relationships?

Notes:

Week 8 – The Fulfillment of God’s Promises

****Matthew Passage:**** Matthew 2:1–23 (Review)

****Isaiah Prophecy:**** Isaiah 9:2; 42:6–7

Reviewing the whole story: Matthew shows how every event — from genealogy to Nazareth — fulfills Isaiah’s vision of light breaking into darkness through the Messiah.

Discussion Questions:

- 43. 1. How do you see Isaiah’s prophecies fulfilled throughout Matthew’s Christmas story?
- 44. 2. What does this teach about God’s control over history?
- 45. 3. How does the Christmas story reveal both God’s power and tenderness?
- 46. 4. Which part of Jesus’ early life most encourages you?
- 47. 5. How can we live as people of the light Isaiah described?
- 48. 6. In what ways does this story challenge your view of Christmas?
- 49. 7. How can you share the “light of the world” with others this season?

Notes:
