

A Four Week Advent Study

A Child Is Born

Introduction: This Study has been written to help us focus on Jesus as we prepare our hearts and minds to celebrate the coming of Immanuel, “God with us”.

Background Scripture: Isaiah 7:1-17, 8:11-17, 9:1-7.

Along with the above scripture which we will refer to often during our study we will also look at specific scriptures relating to the topic of each study.

When Matthew tells the story of the birth of Jesus he tells how the angel gives Joseph this message in a dream. Matt.1:21 says, “She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” Matthew says this before he refers back to Isaiah’s prophecy in Isaiah 7:14. The people walking in darkness needed the light of Jesus to deal with their sins before they could enjoy the benefits of knowing Jesus in an intimate way. Through this study I would like to encourage an intimacy with Jesus. I encourage a moving on from knowing Jesus as a babe in a manger or a good man who lived long ago; to knowing Him as our “Immanuel”. God desires to walk with us through every detail of life and this became a reality when Christ came into the world as a baby in Bethlehem. After His death and resurrection before He left this world Jesus said to His disciples, “...And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” (Matthew 28:20)

Enjoy the Study!

“A CHILD IS BORN”

OUTLINE

Key Verses: Matthew 1:22&23 and Isaiah 9:6

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: “The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” - which means, “God with us.”

Study # 1

I. Preparation For The Birth - Nov. 16\06

When a child is conceived we say the couple is expecting a child. Hundreds of years before Jesus was born God’s people were being prepared by the prophets for God to enter our world and via Jesus to come live with us.

1. Prophetic Preparation: **Isaiah 9:1-7**
2. Mary’s Preparation **Luke 1:26-56**
3. Our Preparation **Titus 3:4-7**

4.

Study # 2 – II. Realization Of the Birth - Nov. 23\06

Finally the delivery date has arrived and the announcement is made, “We have a son!” Now we know it’s a son. The next question is: “What did you name him?”

1. The Perfect Time **Galatians 4:4-7**
2. The Choice of Names **Isaiah 9:6**
3. The Name We Use **Philippians 2:9-11**

Study # 3 – III. Post Birth Pressures – Nov. 30\06

The excitement of the birth and the glamour of entering a new era settles into the drudgery of dirty diapers and sleepless nights. How does the young Mom cope?

1. Pressure for Mary & Joseph - **Luke 2:4-7,**
Matt. 2:13-23
2. Pressure for those who choose New Birth
Luke 9:23-26.
5. Pressure for us at Christmas – Where is our Prince of Peace?

Study # 4 – IV. New Birth Benefits – Dec. 7\06

When we look at pictures of the baby in the manger we are thankful that he didn’t stay there. We still celebrate His birth but we rejoice in knowing we have a relationship with this wonderful Jesus.

1. The Child of the Past – Isaiah 9:6
2. The Son\Savior of the Present – Luke 2:8-14
3. The King of the Present & the Future - Eph. 1:15-23.

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I – Prophetic Preparation -A Birth Foretold

Greetings and Opening Prayer

Read Isaiah 7:10-14, 9:1-7

When a child is conceived we say the couple is expecting. Hundreds of years before Jesus was born God’s people were being prepared for His coming.

In the year King Uzziah died God gave Isaiah the Prophet a powerful vision and from then on he gave many messages to the people of Israel to begin to prepare them for the coming of the Messiah. This was about 700 years before Christ was born. What a long time to wait for a baby!

1. What did God ask King Ahaz to do and why did he not want to do this? What did Isaiah tell him?
2. In Isaiah 9: 1-7 what picture does Isaiah give us about the condition of the people and the land where Jesus would be born?

II. Mary’s Preparation – Luke 1:26-56

3. What adjustments did Mary have to make as she prepared for the birth of Jesus?
4. How did her time with Elizabeth assist her in her preparation?

III. Our Preparation – Titus 3:4-7

5. How do we prepare for Christ to become a part of our lives? What basic beliefs about the Christ Child should we know?
6. How do our preparations for Christmas change when we know Jesus as our “Immanuel”?
Discuss

For Prayer Consideration: Pray that we will invite Jesus into all our Christmas preparations. Ask Him to show you how to include others in our hearts and home.

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II – The Reality of the Birth

Greetings and Opening Prayer

Finally the delivery date has arrived and the announcement is made: “We have a son!” (“He was early, he was late, we had a tough time but he’s here and all is well” etc.)”

1. The Perfect Time - Read Galatians 4:4-7

a). Jesus was born at just the right time. What was Paul saying to the believers in Galatia regarding the birth of Jesus?

b). What is the full right of a son and how does this apply to us today?

2. The Choice of Names – Isaiah 9:6

a). The first question we ask after we know that all is well is: “What did you call him?” List the four names Isaiah states to be given to Jesus when He arrives.

b). What is your response to each one of these names and which one means the most to you?

3. The Name We Use – Philippians 2:5-11

a). What did Paul say should be the attitude of those who name the name of Jesus?

b). What practical exercise could we perform each time we mention the name of “Jesus” or even “Baby Jesus” during this Christmas season? (eg. Take a moment to thank Him for what you have because of His birth or say a prayer for someone who does not yet know the power of the name of Jesus.) Discuss.

For Prayer Consideration:

Pray today using the name of Jesus carefully and knowing there is power in this name.

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III – Post Birth Pressures

Greetings and Opening Prayer

The excitement of the birth and the glamour of entering a new era of family relationships settles into the drudgery of dirty diapers and sleep disturbed nights. How does the young couple cope?

1. Pressure for Mary and Joseph

Read: Luke 2:4-7 and Matthew 2:13-23

- a). This was not an easy time for this young couple. What were some of the pressures they faced?

- b). What do you think kept Mary & Joseph going?

2. Pressure for those who choose New Birth

Read: Luke 9:23-26

- a). What was Jesus trying to impress upon Peter and the disciples about following in His ways?

- b). In what ways have you lost or gained by choosing to follow Jesus?

3. Pressure for us at Christmas

- a). What suggestions do you have to share which might enable us to use the name “Prince of Peace” when pressure and frustration seems to take over?

- b). Share practical suggestions you may have used to simplify your pre-Christmas pressure. Discuss.

For Prayer Consideration:

Spend a few moments meditating on the Name: “Prince of Peace”. Ask the Holy Spirit to fill you with a deep sense of His peace and give you wisdom to share this precious gift of peace with those around you.

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IV – New Birth Benefits

Greetings and Opening Prayer

When we celebrate the birthday of our children we may recall the day they were born or even look at pictures of them as newborns but we soon return to the present and thank God for the person they have become.

When we look at pictures of the baby Jesus in Bethlehem we are thankful that He did not remain a baby but grew up, taught about the love of God and then by His death and resurrection showed us the full extent of His love.

1. The Christ of the Past – Isaiah 9:6

- a). Looking back how does this prophecy benefit us?
- b). What do we benefit from the Biblical stories and lessons of the life of Christ on this earth?

2. The Son\Savior of the Present - Luke 2:8-14

- a). What do we hear in the announcement of the angels to the shepherds that makes us feel included ?
- b). In John 17:20-23 when Jesus prayed before His death, what did He pray and how do we benefit from that prayer?

3. The King of the Present and the Future Ephesians 1:15-23

- a). In this powerful prayer Paul prays for the believers in Ephesus. What does this prayer tell us about Jesus and how does it apply to us?
- b). Discuss lessons we can learn from this prayer, not only for today but also for future days?

For Prayer Consideration:

Spend time today just praising God for His great love for us shown to us in Jesus. Allow the Holy Spirit to speak and be willing to pray for specific needs in the group.

May the “Wonderful Counselor”, the “Mighty God”, the “Everlasting Father”, and the “Prince of Peace” be very real to you during this Christmas season.

Blessings,
Marleen Bahr