

York St Small Groups

Sermon Based Studies

SUNDAY 24 November 2019

Uncluttered

Christmas Past

Matthew 1:18-24



Please note that these studies are designed to be explored after hearing the Sunday Sermon and also to be accompanied by a time of prayer/sharing and supper.

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Webpage: www.yorkst.com.au

Q1. When you think of Christmas what kind of memories do you have?
What emotions do these stir up?

Q2. What Christmas Traditions have you been a part of? Can you think of a tradition that centres around celebrating Christ's birth?

INTO THE WORD

Read (skim) Matthew 1:1-17

Q3. The book of Matthew is written to the Jews, because of this the family tree was vitally important, it was from this family tree that King David and also Abraham connect to Jesus. Family is important at Christmas; how do you celebrate Christmas with family?

Read Matthew 1:18-19

Q4. Life does not always go to plan... Your reflections on family may be more pain filled than joy filled. The birth of Jesus is full of mixed emotions too, how do you think both Mary and Joseph felt with the news at this point?

Read Matthew 1:20-23

Q5. Joseph had the confirmation that Mary's news was true when the angel appeared. We have also had confirmation of good news in and through Jesus. God showed His plan through the angel, how has God shown His plans and faithfulness to you? (e.g.: can you recall a time God was faithful beyond a doubt in your life?)

GOING DEEPER

Read Matthew 1:24-25

Q6. Based on the confirmation of God's plan, Joseph and Mary were obedient to the instructions God gave them. How can you be obedient to the instructions (Bible and Spirit) and the things He has called you to do? A deeper question may be, 'what' has God called you to do, or 'who' has God called you to be?

Q7. Christmas is a time when we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, God's Son sent to Earth out of love. However, life is messy and sometimes Christmas is not a time of joy. How can you see yourself in God's eyes this season? How does God see you? God sees you well enough that He lovingly gave it all for you! You are loved! Can you celebrate that love this year?

CONCLUSION & PRAYER

This season keep the focus on Christ, let's unclutter the things that distract us and ensure that we celebrate the love of a heavenly Father who gave all for us. Pray for this season, that those who are lonely or in pain would experience God's love in a new way. Pray for families to help raise up children to know the true meaning of the Christ-Mass, and pray that we would worship God with all we have because He loved with all He had. Amen!