

York St Small Groups

Sermon Based Studies

SUNDAY 20th December 2020

Christmas is Coming – The Family
Matthew 1:20-23



These studies are designed to be explored after hearing the Sunday sermon and also to be accompanied by a time of prayer/sharing.



To listen to this message again please head to the York St Website or download from iTunes.

Webpage: yorkst.com.au

YORK STREET
CHURCH OF CHRIST

GETTING STARTED

Q1. Can you name your closest friends? What about your extended family? What about those who attend a different service to you at church?

Q2. While some people simply seem gifted at remembering people, names, and details, for most of us we have limits within our social groups. When we push those limits, we feel exhausted as we care for more than our capacity allows. For some people, they feel very isolated and alone due to a large number of reasons; for some it's choices, for others it's personality (e.g: shyness), and people can quickly find themselves without a support network. At Christmas this idea of community, friends, and family is enhanced. What do you think makes community and family such a focus at Christmas time?

INTO THE WORD

Read Matthew 1:20-23

Q3. Immanuel (God with us) is born, the Hope of the world, born into a city that would to have no room for Him (Luke 2:7). Do you ever find yourself realising that Jesus is an afterthought at Christmas? As if you have packed so much into the busy season - family, friends, work break ups, and helping with church events - that you find yourself so 'full' and 'busy' that there is no room for Jesus? Why do you think this takes place in some people's lives?

Read Matthew 15:21-28

Q4. Jesus 'makes room' for an outsider, a gentile (outsider to the people of Israel), and not just a gentile, a Canaanite (enemy of Israel in the Old testament). This woman comes to Jesus and asks if he has room to show love, to heal, and to show compassion. Looking at Jesus' actions, how do we see Jesus making room for those on the fringes of society, or even the church?

GOING DEEPER

Read Matthew 12:46-50

Q5. Jesus is preaching to a full house, His mother and brothers are embarrassed by His teaching - after all, they lived in this town and didn't want to be seen as trouble makers. Jesus speaks powerful words about who His mother, sisters, and brothers are, what does this say about God's family, and the body of Christ?

Read Matthew 28:16-20

Q6. Some of Jesus' disciples doubted His resurrection, yet they still obeyed Him. As we look to their lives lived out in Acts and the letters in the New Testament it's evident that this doubt didn't stop them, and the Holy Spirit empowered them to invite others into God's family. How can we as His disciples be obedient to Jesus' instructions to invite people into God's family? How can we make room for 1 more in our lives for the sake of the gospel?

Pray

Heavenly Father, as we approach Christmas, thank you that you made room for us, you allowed room in your Kingdom for us to be a part of your family. May we always make room for Jesus to lead and guide us, may we see others the way You see them. Allow us to make room for conversations, to make room for your Spirit, and to make room for relationships with others in our community so that we can lead them to Jesus Christ. It's in His name we pray, amen.