



Group Guide

Birth of the King

December 7, 2025

Main Passage: Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-38; 2:1-7

Theological Theme

Jesus, the Messiah, was born in Bethlehem, fulfilling Old Testament prophecy and humbly entering the world as a part of God's plan for our salvation.

Introduction

- ? Let's talk birth stories! Any parents want to share the birth story of any of their children?
- ? Was anyone born under miraculous or funny circumstances? Share as is appropriate.

1. Gabriel Predicts Jesus's Birth (Luke 1:26-38)

The account of Jesus's birth is recorded in two of the four Gospels: Matthew and Luke. Today we are going to look at a portion of both accounts, starting with Luke's account.

- ? What do we learn about Mary's character in this passage?
- ? How do we see Mary's faith displayed?
- ? Application: How do you react when God's plan is very different from the one you have for yourself?

2. The Nativity of the Messiah (Matthew 1:18-25)

In our study last week, we talked about how Matthew's included genealogy boldly affirmed Jesus as the long-awaited Messiah. Today, we'll see how he built the same argument in his account of Jesus's birth.

- ? What do we learn about Joseph's character in this passage?

- ❓ What important information did Matthew include in his account compared to Luke's account of Mary?
- ❓ Application: Where might you need to exercise faith in God in a situation where you may be misunderstood by others? What makes this challenging?

3. The Birth of Jesus (Luke 2:1-7)

Matthew's account of Jesus's birth achieved his goal of providing evidence that Jesus was the Messiah, and Luke's account gives a little more color and details. Luke recorded the circumstances around the census ordered by Rome.

- ❓ What similarities do you notice between Matthew's account and Luke's account of Jesus's birth?
- ❓ What differences? What details did Luke give that Matthew did not?
- ❓ Application: How have you Jesus challenged your expectations of Him by arriving in unexpected places and ways?

Conclusion

- ❓ Where might God be calling you to display faith in Him today? How will you respond?
- ❓ How can we as a group encourage one another in showing faith in Jesus, even when it is difficult to do so?
- ❓ How does living faithfully for Jesus give us opportunity to tell others about Him?