



**LIFEgroup Discussion Questions**

**June 20, 2010**

**Matthew's Gospel: The King and His Kingdom**

**Read Matthew 1.18-25**

1. What is the essence of Christianity based on?
2. How do people answer this question, *What do you think about the Christ, whose son is He?* How do the Pharisees answer it and how does Jesus answer it (Matthew 22.42-46)?
3. What do we learn about Joseph (1.18-25)? What are the two characteristics that stand out about him?
4. What do we learn about Mary in Luke's gospel (Luke 1.26-56; especially 1.38; 45-49)?
5. Describe and discuss the two stages of marriage in the Hebrew culture (*Kiddushin* = betrothal; *Huppa* = marriage)?
6. By what means was Jesus conceived (1.18, 20)? How does Jesus remain sinless when He is born of a sinner?
7. What two commands is Joseph given by the angel of the Lord (1.20-21)?
8. What reason does the angel of the Lord give for Jesus' coming (1.21)? Discuss.
9. What was the purpose of Isaiah's prophecy so many years ago (Isaiah 7.14; 9.6-7)? What does the name *Immanuel* describe (1.23; John 1.14)?
10. Not many people are willing to put obedience to spiritual principles before the gratification of physical desires. How did Joseph demonstrate that he was willing to do this when he found out that Mary was pregnant?

Commit yourself to consider the lasting consequences of decisions made regarding spiritual issues. To better evaluate how spiritually-minded you are, ask yourself two questions as you choose a particular course of action:

*What would Jesus have done in this situation?*

*Will this have eternal consequences?*

**Pray**

