



## Sermon Discussion Guide

December 14th, 2025 | Matthew 1:18-25 | Pastor Drew Taylor

Series // Christmas @ Willow Creek

### Summary

This week, Pastor Drew started his sermon by talking about how he could never beat the game Super Mario Bros. He used this as an example of how we all fall short of God's design and standards because of sin. Pastor Drew shared three main points from the passage: first, that only a God-man could save us from sin and make us right with God; second, that God uses ordinary people like Joseph to carry out his will; and third, that each of us must face the reality of Immanuel: God with us. Jesus' birth did not come through ordinary means; instead, he was miraculously placed in Mary's womb through divine conception, which means he is divine in his being. Jesus needed to be divinely conceived because of humanity's sinful nature and our inability to save ourselves from it. Jesus has come to save his people from their sins. God uses Joseph and his obedience to bring about his will. Joseph's embrace and adoption of Jesus fulfilled the prophecy that the Savior would come from the line of David, and it allowed Jesus to grow up with both an earthly father and mother to nurture him. Lastly, we are all faced with the comforting reality of Immanuel. The reality is that the Bible claims that this Jesus did come and is present, alive today, having defeated sin and death on the cross and ruling and reigning in heaven at the right hand of God the Father.

### Discussion Questions:

#### A Man-God is Needed

- Why is it important to understand sin not just as "mistakes," but as rebellion against God?
- Why was it necessary for Jesus to be both fully human and fully divine?
- Hebrews 4:15 says Jesus was tempted in every way yet without sin. How does this truth affect the way you relate to Jesus in your struggles?

#### God Uses Ordinary People

- What stands out to you about Joseph's response to God's message?
- How does Joseph's obedience demonstrate faith, even when the situation was confusing or costly?
- In what ways does God still use ordinary people today to accomplish His purposes?

### **Immanuel: God With Us**

- What does “God with us” mean for someone walking through hardship or brokenness?
- The sermon says Immanuel is not something we can ignore. Why is Jesus’ presence unavoidable?
- Does the reality of God being “with us” bring you comfort, challenge, or both? Why?