

# Crosspoint City CHRISTMAS

## **ICEBREAKER**

If you were to get a tattoo that represents your most embarrassing moment without telling us the story, what would the tattoo be?

## **CONTEXT**

In our verses today, we are reminded that Jesus is our hope. His birth was a fulfillment of prophecy and restores us to a right relationship with God.

## **PASSAGE**

Matthew 1:18-25

## **DISCUSS**

- Jesus' birth brings hope to the world. How is this hope different from wishful thinking?
- Why do you think many people feel hopeless in today's world?
- Have you ever experienced a lack of hope or felt overwhelmed by the problems in the world? How did you find hope in those times?
- How does the story of Jesus' birth and the meaning of His name demonstrate hope?
- Salvation through Jesus has a past, present, and future impact. We are **justified** (past) by His payment, we are **sanctified** (present) as the Holy Spirit makes us like Him, and we are **glorified** (future) when we are able to live with Jesus. Which aspect resonates with you the most and why?

## **How will you apply this to your life?**

- What has the Holy Spirit brought to mind for you to apply going forward?
- What are some obstacles to applying these principles to your life?
- How does the name "Immanuel" meaning "God with us" influence your approach to God? To others?
- Who do you know that needs the hope of Jesus in their life? Will you begin to pray for an opportunity to share Him with them?

## **How will you pass it on to someone?**

- If someone asked you to explain why John 19:1-16 is in the Bible, what would you tell them? Why?
- How will you incorporate what you've learned into your interactions with others?

## **TAKE TIME TO PRAY**

- Pray for the ability to shift focus from the present struggles and frustrations to the future hope and eager expectation that Jesus offers.
- Ask God to help us understand and apply the truth of Jesus' saving work in our lives - justification, sanctification, and future glorification.
- Pray for the strength to live in the reality of Immanuel, "God with us," in our daily lives and to find hope in the promise of Jesus' victory over sin and struggles.