

## Christmas at Doxology 2025

*A study for Community Groups to use the week of November 30<sup>th</sup>*

To prepare for your group discussion each week, group members should use the **Series Guide** to complete foundational questions in the book for week 5 using the scripture below.

### Week One: Matthew 1:18-25

#### Overview

Each year at Christmas, in Christmas songs, cards, and a host of other places we hear phrases and words that are rooted in the Christmas story. Due to busyness and other reasons we often fail to allow those things to impact how we worship and celebrate. This Christmas we are going to explore a variety of different Christmas themes in hopes of allowing them to impact our celebration this Christmas season.

**Passage: Matthew 1:18-25** *"The first sentence in this section serves as a title. Matthew recorded the supernatural birth of Jesus to demonstrate further His qualification as Israel's Messiah. He wanted to show that Mary could not have become pregnant by another man. These verses show how Jesus came to be the heir of Joseph and thus qualified to be Israel's King."* – Constable's Notes

#### Questions

\*In the Series Guide you will find basic questions we want all to use as they begin to look at the passage. Questions such as; *Who have you had the opportunity to BLESS this week? What does this passage reveal about God? About people? About the life He has planned for us?* These additional questions relate to the passage specifically for your benefit.

- The angel tells Joseph, "Do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife." What fears or anxieties might Joseph have experienced in this situation? How did God's message to him provide strength and direction for his circumstances?
- How does the knowledge that Jesus is "Immanuel" (God with us) impact your daily life, or your sense of God's presence? What barriers do you face to experiencing God's presence moment by moment?
- In this season of Christmas what might it look like for you to fully embrace God's presence in your life? What's one step you could take tomorrow to do so?