



**MERRY** **CHRISTMAS!**  
**Now**  
**Showing**

**(Now What?)**

**The Point:** Now We Have a Human Who is Sinless

**Matthew 1:18-25**

**MERRY CHRISTMAS!** (Now What?)

### Discussion Generators

- What is the worst thing (as in getting in trouble) that you ever did around the Christmas holidays? What is your funniest Christmas memory?
- Read Matthew 1:18-25.** What stood out to you from this week's Point? (they can be funny, serious, stupid, or spiritual) (Here is the PG Coordinators weird-ed out take away- how about that cultural tradition of consummating the marriage in a tent with your relatives near by! Ugh!)
- As we heard during the point, Matthew wrote this account of Jesus coming from Joseph's perspective. If you were in Joseph's sandals, how do you think you would have reacted to finding out Mary was pregnant?
- Read Luke 1:26-38. On the flipside of the coin, how do you think you would have felt in Mary's sandals?
- Read Matthew 1:25 again. Why do you think that Mary being a virgin and Joseph not consummating the marriage until after Jesus was born is so important?
- Can anyone describe what a surrogate mother is? Do you think that surrogate would be an accurate way to define Mary's role in Jesus birth?

•What is the danger in saying that Mary was the biological mother of Jesus instead of understanding the Holy Spirit's role in the conception of Jesus as providing the egg and the sperm?

•**Read Romans 6:23.** Can anyone recall what the example was that was used during the point using the four guys up front? There was Adam, a human (a.k.a. son of Adam), a donkey/goat, and Jesus. We heard the fancy, church word "condemnation" when Adam and his ancestors were talked about. What does condemnation refer to in relation to Adam and his ancestors, us?

•What was the donkey/goat representative as in the illustration? Was the sacrifice of an animal ultimately sufficient enough as a replacement to our record of sin? Why or why not? **Read II Corinthians 5:21.** With this verse in mind, what was the whole purpose of Jesus birth and becoming human? Why is Jesus being sinless important as the "substitution" for us?

•**Read Romans 4:5.** Do you remember at ATU when Greg and Wilson were thrown into prison? Why was it that Greg couldn't take Wilson's place in jail but Muffy and Tina could? How is that like Jesus? How do you think life would turn out if our "justification" to be accepted by God was based on what we do?

### Thinking Outside the Box

Last week you were challenged to think of an idea that your group can do for an individual or group during this Christmas season. Follow up with that this week to be check in on progress or plans. Have a great week!

## Bible Verses

### **John 1:1-4 (NIV)**

This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about : His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us"). When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

### **Luke 1:26-38 (NIV)**

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end." "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. For no word from God will ever fail." "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

### **Romans 6: 23 (CEV)**

Sin pays off with death. But God's gift is eternal life given by Jesus Christ our Lord.

### **II Corinthians 5:21 (NIV)**

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

### **Romans 4:5 (CEV)**

But you cannot make God accept you because of something you do. God accepts sinners only because they have faith in Him.