

## **Sermon Notes**

### **Matthew 1:18-25**

This week we started in Genesis 1:1 and did a “fly over” all the way to the birth of Jesus Christ. From the creation of the world to the cradle which held our LORD, God has had a purpose and a plan. The more we know and understand about the Word of God the more we understand about our LORD and Savior Jesus Christ. In discussing the birth of Christ, we learned four qualities of being a disciple that prove helpful. As you spend time listening to the message and reading the questions, may the Spirit of God guide you into all truth.

Here are some notes to review from this week’s sermon...

### **Creation to Cradle**

#### **Matthew 1:18-25**

**The birth of Christ teaches us we must...**

**Believe in God’s supernatural power (18)**

**Rely on special revelation to act in wisdom (19-21)**

**Understand God’s fidelity to, and fulfilment of, His Word (22-23)**

**Be faithful to follow His Word (24-25)**

Hearing the Word of God and responding to Him is extremely important. If you haven’t had the chance to listen to the message from this week you can now watch it here. After watching, please use the following questions (if you find them helpful) in your BRAVE groups (now online every weekday) or discuss them with your family and/or friends. If you are not in a BRAVE Group now is a great time to get involved. Visit our website to find a group.

### **Questions**

1. What was unique about the birth of Jesus Christ? Why was a virgin birth necessary? How was Joseph first informed about Mary being pregnant? What did Joseph want to do in response? Why?
2. How supernatural was the birth of Christ? Why would believing the birth of Christ be difficult for a non-believer? How many virgin pregnancies have been recording throughout world history?
3. Why is it important for a believer in Christ to still believe in God’s supernatural power? How does believing in God’s supernatural power change your approach to prayer, preaching, Bible reading, giving, serving, fasting and other spiritual

disciplines? How does your life with Christ suffer when you begin to think that it's not supernatural?

4. Where are you believing God for His supernatural power in your life? Where are you needing to believe Him more? How would this change your approach to prayer?
5. What is special revelation? How does it differ from general revelation? Why did Joseph need special revelation when he received the news about Mary being pregnant?
6. How did Joseph receive special revelation? How did the special revelation from the angel change how Joseph planned to respond to Mary? Was Joseph correct in listening to the special revelation he was given? Would everyone in Joseph's sphere of influence have agreed with Joseph? What does this tell you about Joseph?
7. How faithful is God to His Word? How does understanding God's fidelity to His Word shape your life as a disciple? How might you be able to grow more in God's Word during this coming year?
8. Was God surprised by the birth of Jesus Christ? How long had God planned His birth? How is the prophecy of Isaiah fulfilled in Matthew 1:22-23? What's the significance of a 700-year-old prophecy being fulfilled exactly as described? How does this help us in understanding unfulfilled prophecy?
9. How did Mary and Joseph respond to God's plan? Was obedience to God's plan easier or more difficult than life prior to God's direction? What is your opinion about people who say, "Just give your life to Jesus and everything will get better?" Why is that such a false notion?
10. What are the most significant truths you have learned through Genesis and how has the series helped you grow in your relationship with Jesus Christ?