

Community group questions
Isaiah 7 & Matthew 1:18-25

Opening question: Are you more inclined to put off decisions until you get as much information as possible or make a decision on the information you have been given? In what way would it depend on the situation?

Scripture study

- According to Isaiah 7:2-7 & 2 Kings 16:1-7, what is going on at the time of Isaiah's prophecy that is a legitimate reason for the people's fear? What does Ahaz do that shows a lack of trust in God? In what way is it true that we all are trusting in something or someone? How is your perspective of a situation in need of His perspective right now?
- Read Isaiah 7:10-16. How would you summarize these verses? Why do you suppose God invites Ahaz to ask for a sign and why doesn't he take God up on it? Share a time when God worked in a situation in your life that strengthened your faith. What is the significance of the name Immanuel here (see also 8:9-10)?
- Read Matthew 1:18-25. How does Jesus emerge as the complete picture to Isaiah 7? Why can there be no question to Jesus being born of a virgin? How is Jesus the Immanuel? What difference should it make knowing that God is with us? In what circumstances is that most meaningful to you?
- How does looking back to the story of Christmas help you in looking to the future? As you see the dots connected of past prophecies & promises what does that do for you in times when things don't make sense? Any particular situation presently that is calling you to greater trust in God?