

Part 3: Hope With Us

MATTHEW 1:18-25

Sunday, December 8, 2024 | Wawasee Bible | Milford, Indiana | Pastor Josh Weiland

Biblical Hope is the confident assurance that God will keep every promise he has made.

↓ To save us, God came to **BE WITH US,**

he drew near (Immanuel) Hebrews 4:15; John 1:9-18

he knows what it's like Hebrews 4:15; 1 Peter 2:24

put on **FLESH,**

incarnation John 1:14; Hebrews 2:14; Philipians 2:7-8; 1 Tim. 3:16

virgin conception & birth Isaiah 7:14; Luke 1:31, 34

and **TOOK OUR PLACE.**

1-for-1 substitute 2 Corinthians 5:21; Galatians 3:13; Isaiah 53:4-5

promise kept 2 Corinthians 1:20



Text us at **833-271-8805.**
— Text **APP** to get our app.

Text this number anytime for prayer. Just say, "**Pray for...**" followed by your request.

Or if you just need someone to talk to, start texting us with whatever's going on and someone will be in touch via text.



Study Guide

Questions & Scripture for Further Study

What is this? – Each week people from Wawasee Bible meet in small groups in various homes to learn about Jesus, pray, eat, laugh, & live life together. **We call them Life Groups.** The questions here are based on the sermon each week (often a related part of Scripture), and guide each group's study. If you're interested in connecting with a Life Group, let us know on a Connect Card or at the Connect Desk!

Welcome to Life Group!

Getting to Know You

Part of our goal at Life Group is just learning more about each other. Toward that end, here's a *random* question to discuss and break the ice as you get going. Have everyone answer:

What's the most unusual or unexpected compliment you've ever received?

Digging Deeper – A Bible Study

Use this guide for further personal and group study this week. For the most impact in your life and in your group, *work through it on your own before you gather with your Life Group.* If your Life Group isn't gathering this week, use this guide for further study personally.

- Read Matthew 1:18-25.** *Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time, that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you? — Discuss it with your group before moving on.*
- God was at work far beyond what Joseph knew or could have even imagined. The same is true for us. God is at work in those puzzling times when we wonder if he's even aware of what's going on in our life. Below are some verses that speak to how God works beyond our immediate circumstances. Look up each one and write the main point in your own words.

Psalm 55:22

Romans 8:26-27

1 Corinthians 15:58

Philipians 1:6

Ephesians 3:19-20

Ephesians 6:7-8

- Can you look back and identify a time in your life where God was at work even though at the time you didn't recognize him? What did you learn about God through that time?
- How has your faith and trust in him been affected as a result?

(Study Guide continues on back panel...)



Welcome to Wawasee!

OUR OUTCOMES This is who we hope you grow to *become* at Wawasee Bible...

If I'm truly growing as a follower of Jesus, I should be growing in the ways that I am...

- 1 | **Receiving From God.** Am I reading the Word regularly? When am I gathering to hear the Word taught? What fruit of the Spirit do I see growing in my life?
- 2 | **Responding To God.** How am I talking to and listening to God regularly? What are some healthy spiritual habits I'm working on (things like giving, scripture memory, repentance, rest, etc.)?
- 3 | **Receiving From Others.** Where and how am I in community/friendship with other Christians in our church who have a window to speak into my life?
- 4 | **Moving Toward Others.** How and where am I contributing to and initiating community with other Christians in our church? (Or am I only consuming?)
- 5 | **Going to those Far from God.** How am I regularly going toward those who are far from God—loving them, sharing God's Story and my own story? When was the last time I shared God's story and/or my faith story? Who is on my PEARL list?

Word Find in the Word

Find the words from a passage related to this week's message.

Word Find: Matthew 1:18-23 (ESV)

Find the words **bolded** below.

¹⁸ Now the **birth** of **Jesus Christ** **took place** in this way. When his **mother Mary** had **been betrothed** to **Joseph**, before they **came together** she was **found** to **be** with **child** from the **Holy Spirit**. ¹⁹ And her **husband Joseph**, **being a just** man and **unwilling** to put her to **shame**, **resolved** to **divorce** her **quietly**. ²⁰ But as he **considered** these **things**, **behold**, an **angel** of the **Lord** appeared to him

in a dream, saying, "**Joseph**, son of David, do not fear to take **Mary** as your wife, for that which is **conceived** in her is from the **Holy Spirit**." ²¹ She will **bear** a son, and you shall **call** his **name Jesus**, for he will save his people from their sins." ²² All this **took place** to fulfill what the **Lord** had spoken by the prophet: ²³ "**Behold**, the virgin shall **conceive** and **bear** a son, and they shall **call** his **name Immanuel**" (which means, God with us).

Q L J D T O O K N A M E K J
H O L Y F K Q V C Q A R T E
R R F O U N D S P I R I T S
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life groups Study Guide (continued)

3. Pastor Josh took some time to explain why the virgin birth (really the virgin conception) of Jesus is so important. What are some of the reasons you remember? List them below.

- Why do you think a growing number of people attack the historicity of the virgin birth? Do you find it hard to believe?
- What do you forfeit if you forfeit the Bible telling the truth on this?

4. It can be hard to grasp the reality that God understands our weaknesses and struggles and still invites us to come to him to find mercy and grace whenever we need it. Jesus emphasizes this point in a number of places in the New Testament. How do the following passages help you gain confidence and **hope** (revisit our definition of Biblical Hope!) that God really does understand and still invites you into relationship?

Matthew 11:28-30

John 8:1-11

Taking It Home

5. What's your biggest practical takeaway this week? Share it with your group.

Prayer

As you close, take time to pray for each other. Divide into separate groups of men and women. Feel free to share requests, just be sure each person gets prayed for.

This week's Study Guide is adapted from a study by North Coast Church in Vista, CA. North Coast is a sister church of Wawasee Bible and part of the EFCA.



Wawasee Bible is part of the Evangelical Free Church of America. View our Statement of Faith online at wawaseebible.com/beliefs. Learn more about the EFCA at efca.org.

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HOPE UNFOLDING

Sunday, December 8, 2024

Hope With Us

MATTHEW 1:18-25

PART 3



We're Glad You're Here Today!

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<https://wawasee.today>