

The questions below are designed to be used by Saylorville Church Cell Groups as they meet during the week following the Sunday morning message at Saylorville. The intent is not for groups to answer every question, but for leaders to use the questions as a guide as they tailor the discussion to the unique needs of their group. The Sunday message and these questions can be found each week at [www.saylorvillechurch.com/sermons](http://www.saylorvillechurch.com/sermons).

**CONNECT WITH YOUR GROUP (10-15 MINUTES)**

- We are officially in the holiday season! Who will you be welcoming into your home this year? What are some of your favorite holiday traditions? What is one way to make guests feel most at home?

**APPLY THE BIBLE (45-60 MINUTES)**

- **Remember** what you talked about last week. Anything you need to follow up on as a group?
- **Review** the notes you took on Sunday. What is **one thing** that sticks out to you about what you heard?
- **Read** Matthew 1:18-25. In his message, Pastor Pat gave us **three reasons to welcome Jesus into your home this Christmas**.

**1. Because He came, not to *exclude* you but to *include* you.**

- a. Pastor Pat mentioned many “messy” people in the lineage of Jesus. Discuss as a group why it matters that Jesus comes from a “messy” background. What does that mean for us?
- b. When God included you into His family, He forgave all of your sins. Talk about what it means to have your sins taken away. What does this mean for our daily lives?
- c. Pastor Pat said, **“God doesn’t sweep you *past* under the rug, He sweeps your *sins* under His blood.”** Do you struggle with being identified by your past? Share with the group an example of how God has used your past/sin for good.

**2. Because His coming wasn’t natural, it was supernatural.**

- a. At the virgin birth, God became a man — As prophesied. How does the fact that Jesus was fully human as well as fully God encourage you?
- b. The virgin birth allowed for God to be propitiated. Propitiation means that Jesus satisfied the wrath of God. How does your life change when you know that God’s wrath is no longer directed towards you? How might this information change the way you share your testimony?
- c. The virgin birth produced a perfect life with power! The result of sin is death, but Jesus never sinned. He took your sins, making it possible for Him to die in your place. When is the last time you wept over your sin? Take some time to thank Jesus for His sacrifice.

**3. Because He came, not for the Christmas tree, but the family tree.**

- a. Joseph and Mary’s reputation would be a stigma they would have wear for many, many years. What stigma as a child of God have you worn? What stigma as a child of God do you need to wear but haven’t?
- b. Being a part of a family entails responsibilities as well as privileges. What does it mean for you to be a part of God’s family?

***“As man alone, Jesus could not save us. As God alone He would not save us. Incarnate He could and He did!” - Martin Luther***

**PRAY TOGETHER (5-15 MINUTES)**

- Pray for unsaved friends and family that you may have an opportunity to share Christ with this Christmas season.
- Pray for a way to bless others this Christmas season. How could you bless others as a cell group?

