

**Discussion / Reflection Guide -- “He Gives Us Hope”**  
**Week of December 3, 2017**

**Read Matthew 1:18-25**

- The Gospel of Matthew tells of Jesus’ birth from Joseph’s perspective; Luke tells the story from Mary’s perspective. Mat 1:18 tells us that Mary became pregnant through the power of the Holy Spirit while she was still a virgin – fulfilling what was prophesied in Isaiah 7:14. Do you believe this to be true? Why is it important?
- Why is it significant that God is the father rather than Joseph? What difference does it make? Does it make the Gospel story have more impact to you?
- Joseph initially doubted Mary’s story about being a virgin. What emotions do you suppose he was experiencing when he learned that Mary was pregnant?
- The angel told him to not worry, that God had done the impossible in order to save us from our sins (Mat. 1:20-21). If you have been attending church very long, it is easy to take for granted the concept of being “saved.” Read the following and consider the depth of God’s forgiveness and reflect on the implications of the promises in: Psalms 103:10-12; Romans 3:22-24, 8:1, 38.
- The name “Jesus” means God is my salvation. The name “Immanuel” means God is with us. The Bible teaches that Jesus was God in the flesh. God loved us so much Jesus came to earth so that we can have eternal life (John 3:16). And since God the Holy Spirit is living inside of His followers, the promise that God will never leave us or forsake us is literally true. Do His presence, His love, His mercy, His strength, His comfort give you hope? Why?
- Take some time to reflect on the hope we can have through Jesus. Spend some time in prayer thanking Him for this hope.