

## **“What’s in a Name?”—Matthew 1:18-25**

Discussion Guide based on December 20, 2009 Message

Big Idea: The very names of Jesus reveal just how much we need him.

### **Background:**

- \*What was the background surrounding Jesus birth?
- \*What affect would the announcement of Jesus’ birth have had on Joseph?
- \*Try to place yourself in His shoes. How might you have reacted to this stunning news?

### **Leading the Session Helps/Discussion Questions**

- \*Talk about the significant meaning of names (in your family or those you know).
- \**The first reason we need Jesus is to remove sin.*
- \* In verse 21, Joseph was told to give the baby the name Jesus. What does this name mean (salvation)?
- \*What did humanity need to be saved from (sin and death)?
- \*What is sin?
- \*How are we as humans like a contorted Christmas tree (no matter how decorated, still inherently flawed)?
- \**The second reason we need Jesus is to remove space.*
- \*In verse 23, we the angel states, “They will call him Immanuel, which means God with us.”
- \*God’s presence with men means that we no longer have to be separated from him in eternity or here and now.
- \*Why is it significant that God has opened up a way for us to have a “personal” relationship with him?
- \*Remember the story of Father Damien not only going to the leper colony but contracting leprosy? How is that similar to what God did by taking human form?
- \*Joseph and Mary’s typical Jewish life was interrupted in a radical way. Are you willing to let God interrupt yours? Does the presence of Christ change your priorities and agenda?