



**WEEK 1**

**JESUS.**

**PROMISED MESSIAH.**



# **WEEK 1**

**GROUP DISCUSSION**

# INTRODUCTION:

*To open your group time, read the following introduction aloud.*

## **“Teenage Virgin gives birth to Messiah-King!”**

Does this sound like a headline from National Enquirer? Actually it’s taken right from the pages of the Gospels in the New Testament. Matthew 1-2 and Luke 1-2 declare that the miraculous birth of Jesus of Nazareth was the fulfillment of ancient Hebrew prophecies and that the new born baby was in fact the Messiah-King promised in those prophecies. Believe it or reject it, one cannot deny the Bible’s presentation of **Jesus as the Messiah of Israel and King of the Jews.**

**Prophecy** is the prediction of events before they happen. One of the most convincing proofs for the reliability of the Bible and the uniqueness of Jesus is the fulfillment of Messianic prophecy. The Old Testament is filled with prophetic references to the birth, life, death and resurrection of the Messiah.

Messianic prophecy can be compared to a mailing address. My name and mailing address pinpoint me as a specific person in a specific location at a specific time. My name is JP Jones. My church is in the state of California. My church is in Laguna Hills, California. The location of my church office is 23331 Moulton Parkway, Laguna Hills, California. I am the only Rev. JP Jones, who works at Crossline Community Church, located at 23331 Moulton Parkway, Laguna Hills, California.

The prophecies in the Old Testament point to a specific person, at a specific time, in a specific location. **Only one man has fulfilled those prophecies, to the letter, and that man is Jesus of Nazareth.** These predictions were made hundreds and hundreds of years before Jesus’ birth and their fulfillment indicates the miraculous nature of God’s Word and the divine nature of Jesus as the Messiah-King.

## VIDEO SEGMENT

Now, as a group, turn on your TV or Laptop and watch the video for Week 1,  
**JESUS THE PROMISED MESSIAH**

2 ways to watch:

1. Go to [crosslinechurch.com/mml](http://crosslinechurch.com/mml)
2. Go to [vimeo.com/album/5382165](http://vimeo.com/album/5382165)

*After Watching, take a moment to initially respond with your thoughts about the video.*

## READ:

### Matthew 2:1-6

<sup>1</sup>After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem <sup>2</sup>and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him." <sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. <sup>4</sup>When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Christ was to be born. <sup>5</sup>"In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written: <sup>6</sup>" 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will be the shepherd of my people Israel.'

## **Luke 2:26-35**

<sup>26</sup>It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Christ. <sup>27</sup>Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, <sup>28</sup>Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying: <sup>29</sup>"Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you now dismiss your servant in peace. <sup>30</sup>For my eyes have seen your salvation, <sup>31</sup>which you have prepared in the sight of all people, <sup>32</sup>a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel." <sup>33</sup>The child's father and mother marveled at what was said about him. <sup>34</sup>Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, <sup>35</sup>so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too."

## **Isaiah 9:6-7**

<sup>6</sup>For to us a child is born,  
to us a son is given,  
and the government will be on his shoulders.  
And he will be called  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
<sup>7</sup>Of the greatness of his government and peace  
there will be no end.  
He will reign on David's throne  
and over his kingdom,  
establishing and upholding it  
with justice and righteousness  
from that time on and forever.  
The zeal of the LORD Almighty  
will accomplish this.

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

*Answer the following questions together in your group time.*

1. From the readings, what titles and/or qualities does the Bible attribute to Jesus?
2. What were some of the responses of those that heard of Jesus' birth?
3. Why do you think it is important for people to understand the Bible's description of Jesus as the Promised Messiah?
4. How do you personally react to the thought of Jesus as the Messiah?
5. If the real Jesus is who the Bible describes Him, how do you think it would impact a person's life to believe in Him as the Messiah and follow Him as King?

*Now take some time to talk about any additional question or thoughts that came from the video, the reading, or the discussion*

## **APPLY POINT**

This week, think about what feelings arise when a hope or promise is fulfilled and place yourself in the shoes of a 1st century Jew upon hearing rumors that the Messiah had been born in Bethlehem.

## **GOING DEEPER**

To have a deeper group or personal study around Jesus as the Promised Messiah, go to the "Going Deeper" section of week 1 starting on page 25.

# PRAYER REQUESTS





# NOTES:



# **WEEK 1**

**DAILY READINGS**

# DAY 1: DON'T FREAK OUT!

Jordan Gash

*"What in the world have we gotten ourselves into?"* If you have ever undertaken a major home renovation, you likely can relate with this thought. This past summer, my wife and I decided to have some major work on our house done. Every day that I would come home and see my walls torn down, concrete broken up and giant holes in my yard I would waffle back and forth from overwhelming excitement and utter, gripping terror. While I can pretend to know what is happening, most of the time I am completely lost on exactly why the construction guys are doing what they are doing. Yet, despite the chaos, I don't have to freak out. Why? *Because I know there is a plan.*

Life doesn't always go the way we would expect it, huh? In fact, most of the time it feels like a rollercoaster with twists and turns and loops that you can't anticipate. However, when we come into a relationship with Jesus, we recognize that we don't have to freak out because He has a plan for our lives. He is constructing a beautiful outcome that is for our good and His glory, even when we can't understand the circumstances of the present season. In the midst of chaos, the Israelites, too, relied on the plan of the Promised Messiah:

*"The days are coming," declares the Lord, "when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. This is the name by which he will be called: The Lord Our Righteous Savior. (Jer. 23:5-6)*

Wherever you are at today, focus not on the **chaos of the present that leads to panic** but rather the **confidence of the plan that leads to peace**. God is a master builder and wants to show you the great extent of His love for you, if you would only put your trust in Him.

## **PRAYER**

*Creator God, You are faithful!*

*Though I don't always understand the ways that You work, I trust you that You love me and are working things out for my good and for Your glory. Help me to have faith today and not be anxious. Your will be done in my life. Amen.*

## DAY 2: WHEN EXPECTATIONS GET IN THE WAY

Gigi Johnson

I don't know where I got the idea that a first date should always take place at white table-clothed restaurant, complete with a leather-backed menu and a server that carries a crumb scraper. Okay, okay, I do know—it's all those cheesy romantic comedies I've watched over the years. You can imagine my surprise when I found myself at a spur-of-the-moment lunch with a co-worker one random weekday, ordering watery pasta at a counter before sitting at a wobbly cafeteria table drinking tap water from a paper cup. Apparently, this would be my first meal with my husband. This was not what I had in mind—not even close—but the conversation that followed was some of the best I'd ever had! If I'd stopped there because my own expectations weren't met, I would've missed out on the most incredible future with the man God picked just for me!

Expectations have the ability to stop us short of experiencing all God has prepared for us if we're not careful. Today, we read in Matthew 2 of God sending Jesus to earth as an inconspicuous child from an ordinary town. "But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will be the shepherd of my people Israel." (vs. 6) This simply didn't meet the expectations of many people who thought the Savior of the world would possess more typical traits of a person of power; traits like impressive physical strength, a military background or parents in a position of power.

Though many in Israel let their own expectations of a Savior and Messiah prevent them from seeing the truth, the Magi did not. Also commonly referred to as the Wise Men, the Magi understood God's Word about the promised Messiah and let it override their expectations. They traveled thousands of miles in search of a star, certain they'd find this promised Messiah.

*When they saw the star, they were overjoyed... They saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him... and presented him with gifts... (Matt. 2:10-11)*

Rather than trusting themselves and their expectations, the Magi trusted God for who Jesus was and where they'd find him.

We can trust the Bible and we can trust God. The Bible tells us Jesus is the Savior, the promised Messiah, and He's readily found when we seek him. When we seek the Lord, we can be certain we'll find him, and we ought to worship him as the Magi did. That's when we'll experience the promises of eternal and abundant life that come from a relationship with God.

### **PRAYER**

*Dear God, help me to not let my feeble, human expectations get in the way of seeking, finding and following you.  
Align my heart with the truth of your Word.  
Guide me and reset any preconceived notions I may have about what it looks like to give you all of my heart.  
In Jesus' name I pray, amen.*

## DAY 3: GOD WITH US

Greg Munck

One of the greatest miracles in the entire Bible is found in the reading for today. We get to see a prophecy (a biblical prediction) from the Old Testament in Isaiah come true in the first New Testament book, Matthew. Could you imagine being Joseph and the weight of what was being told to him? Though they did not live together as husband and wife until actual marriage, unfaithfulness on the part of those engaged was treated as adultery and punishable by death. Mary being a virgin and pregnant was a lot to deal with for the young couple. The child she carried in her womb was of divine origin, conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit. With the world's religions having man reaching to God, with Jesus it is God reaching to man, God with us! The angel of God is sent as the instrument of comfort to Joseph, he is a just man, simple in heart and obedient, he discerns without difficulty the revelation of the Lord, and obeys it. You can trace the genealogy of Joseph and Mary back to the Messianic line of David. We get to see the first part of John 3:16 come to life.

*"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."  
(John 3:16)*

God sent his son, God with us! Christmas time is not the only time we should consider the awesomeness of what God has provided for us. When God decided to give us the gift of eternal life, it wasn't something that He just thought of on the fly. Long before there was a town called Bethlehem, a decision was made in eternity that God would send forth His Son, born of a woman, made under the law, to redeem those that are under the law.

The Bible says that He was slain from the foundation of the world (Rev. 13:8). Make no mistake about it: this gift that God has given to us was the most sacrificial thing He possibly could have offered.

All material gifts will be gone one day. All that will be left after this life is the human soul, and that will live forever. Life is about what happens beyond the grave. Life is about knowing the God who made you and who gave you the greatest gift you will ever receive.

God is holy and nothing unholy can come into his presence. That divide can only be bridged by Jesus Christ. God is with us through the birth, life and death of Jesus Christ, accept the greatest gift you could ever receive and tell the world about it!

### **PRAYER**

*Father, thank you for reaching out to me, to pull me out of the pit of my own sin and giving me a new identity in you! You have made me holy, because of the blood of you son that makes me clean!  
Reveal to me who I should share this life-changing gift with!  
I give all my life to you! In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.*

## DAY 4: CATCHING YOUR BREATH

Grant Gunther

I do not know about you, but often I can feel like I have too much on my plate. Then my brain gets filled with thoughts like "I just wish I could take a break" or "I just wish all my responsibilities could vanish." Throughout the grind of life we often feel like we are the sole makers of our or our families destiny. So, if I want the best possible outcomes, then I need to put in the work to make it happen. Hence, I start feeling overwhelmed and just want to press pause on everything going on in life, so that I can try and catch my breath.

Thankfully, when it comes to our eternal destiny God has us covered. Rather than leaving the burden of taking care of our eternity in our hands God has placed that burden on himself. Finally we can find rest, not because of our own accomplishments, but because of what God has done and is doing for us. We see God's willingness to carry our burdens in his promise in Isaiah 9 to send a Son:

*For a child will be born for us, a son will be given to us, **and the government will be on His shoulders**. He will be named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. The dominion will be vast, and its prosperity will never end. He will reign on the throne of David and over his kingdom, **to establish and sustain it** with justice and righteousness from now on and forever. The zeal of the Lord of Hosts will accomplish this. (Isaiah 9:6-7)*

The beauty of the God of the Bible is that he desires to remove our burdens from us (Mt 11:29), and instead place them on himself. Jesus, the Son, has come to bear the weight of our eternal destiny, so that we can catch our breath. But, will we trust him with our lives?

### **PRAYER**

*Lord God, You are so gracious towards me!  
Despite my desire to try and do everything on my own,  
You still desire to take care of and provide for me.  
Will You work to create in me a heart that desires to depend on Jesus  
and to rest in the work that He has and will accomplish.*



## DAY 5: WILL YOU CARRY MY BAGGAGE, PLEASE?

Donna Jones

While I was pregnant with our first child, my husband JP and I made a six-week trip to the middle of nowhere. Our first stop was a remote Malaysian island called Borneo. Borneo is so off-grid that it took four days to get there (and no, we didn't swim, but it might have been faster). Because our trip was lengthy, and because I was pregnant, and because we were young and stupid, we took entirely too much luggage.

The baggage issue wasn't really a problem for me, though. I had a hall pass from carrying heavy loads: Pregnancy.

My delicate condition (which I thoroughly milked, by the way) meant JP had to navigate Los Angeles, Tokyo, Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Sibiu, Hong Kong and Oahu, with luggage in both hands, satchels slung over his shoulders, and a back pack large enough to carry a small village. We were a sight. Or rather, he was a sight. I pretty much skated from airport to airport, scot-free.

As we traveled from city to city, I'd occasionally glance at my weighted down husband, then glance down at my baggage-free body. I marveled at how he could carry so much junk--most of it mine--without a single word of complaint. Not once did he insist I carry my own baggage. He willingly carried the burdens that were rightly mine.

Each time I looked at JP, and the ridiculous load of baggage slung all over his body, I knew one thing for sure: I was deeply, and fully, loved. Only love could motivate a person to bear a load not their own. This is the kind of love Jesus showed you.

*"He committed no sin and no deceit was found in his mouth." When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. "He himself bore our sins" in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. (1 Pet. 2:22-24)*

Jesus willingly carried our baggage--our sin--on His own body, when He died on the cross. He carried the full weight of our sin, without a single sin of His own, and without a single word of complaint. We don't need to carry the burden of our sin. Jesus carries it all.

When we look at the cross, with the ridiculous amount of baggage Jesus bore on His body there, may it remind us of how deeply, and fully, we are loved.

### **PRAYER**

*Lord Jesus, Your love endures forever. It is more than I can imagine. I praise you that, out of your immense love, you carried my sin on the cross. Help me to always remember your sacrifice and daily bring me to repentance.  
Amen.*



**WEEK 1**

GOING DEEPER

# FOR DEEPER GROUP OR PERSONAL STUDY, GO THROUGH PASTOR JP'S STUDY OUTLINE:

## *Jesus the Promised Messiah*

As we look at Jesus as the promised Messiah-King, let me illustrate some of the irrefutable evidence from prophecy:

### **1. The Messiah would come from Bethlehem**

#### ***Micah 5:2***

"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times. "

The fulfillment of this prophecy is recorded in Matthew 2:1-6:

#### ***Matthew 2:1-6***

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem <sup>2</sup>and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him." <sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. <sup>4</sup>When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Christ was to be born. <sup>5</sup>"In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written: <sup>6</sup>" 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will be the shepherd of my people Israel.'

This prophecy pinpoints the birthplace of the Messiah. While it might be argued that Jesus tried to manipulate his life in order to fulfill prophecy, no one has control over where they will be born!

## 2. The Messiah would come from Bethlehem

### **2 Samuel 7:12-13**

But you David, when your days are over and you rest with your Fathers, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, who will come from your own body, and I will establish his kingdom. <sup>13</sup> He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

### **Matthew 1:1**

"A record of the genealogy of Jesus Christ the son of David..."

The angel Gabriel appeared to Mary and proclaimed in Luke 1:31-33,

### **Luke 1:31-33**

You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup>and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end."

## 3. The Messiah would have a divine nature

### **Isaiah 9:6-7**

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup> Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

Isaiah predicts that the Messiah would be called the "... Mighty God, Everlasting Father..." the New Testament records the fulfillment of this prophesy in John 14:6-11 and 1 Timothy 1:16-17:

### ***John 14:6-10***

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup>If you really knew me; you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him."

<sup>8</sup>Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us."

<sup>9</sup>Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? <sup>10</sup>Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work.

### ***1 Timothy 1:16-17***

But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his unlimited patience as an example for those who would believe on him and receive eternal life. <sup>17</sup>Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

The "address" of the Messiah is becoming more and more specific: Born in Bethlehem, a human descendant of David and possessing a divine nature.

## **4. The Messiah would be born of a virgin**

### ***Isaiah 7:14***

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

This miraculous prediction is matched with a miraculous fulfillment described in Luke 2:26-35 and Matthew 1:18-25:

### ***Luke 2:26-35***

It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Christ.

<sup>27</sup>Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts.

When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for

him what the custom of the Law required, <sup>28</sup>Simeon took

him in his arms and praised God, saying: <sup>29</sup>“Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you now dismiss your servant in peace. <sup>30</sup>For my eyes have seen your salvation, <sup>31</sup>which you have prepared in the sight of all people, <sup>32</sup>a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.” <sup>33</sup>The child’s father and mother marveled at what was said about him. <sup>34</sup>Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: “This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, <sup>35</sup>so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

### **Matthew 1:18-25**

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup>But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” <sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: <sup>23</sup>“The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” --which means, “God with us.” <sup>24</sup>When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. <sup>25</sup>But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

Only one man in history was born in Bethlehem, born of a virgin, born with a divine nature and born as a descendant of David. That man is Jesus Christ.

Though there are numerous prophetic predictions, I will include just one more:

## 5. The Messiah would die as a sin payment for all mankind

### ***Isaiah 53:4-13***

Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. <sup>5</sup> But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. <sup>6</sup> We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. <sup>8</sup> ...For he was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgression of my people he was stricken. <sup>9</sup> He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth. <sup>10</sup> Yet it was the LORD's will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the LORD makes his life a guilt offering, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the LORD will prosper in his hand. <sup>11</sup> After the suffering of his soul, he will see the light of life and be satisfied; by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities. <sup>12</sup> Therefore I will give him a portion among the great, and he will divide the spoils with the strong, because he poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors. For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

Over and over again the New Testament writers make it clear that the meaning of Christ's death is found in the idea of a sacrifice or payment for sin. In fact, the Apostle Peter quotes Isaiah 53 as the basis for understanding Christ's death:

### **1 Peter 2:24**

He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.

### **1 Peter 3:18**

For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit.



Messianic prophecy is like an address that pinpoints a particular person, at a particular time, in a particular location. The Old Testament prophecies, recorded hundreds of years before their fulfillment, pinpoint the identity of the Messiah as Jesus Christ. He and He alone, miraculously fulfilled these ancient predictions. Based on prophetic fulfillment, the Bible declares Jesus to be the Promised Messiah-King.

## **Look at it**

### **Read Luke 1:26-38**

*In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."*

*<sup>29</sup> Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup> But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup> and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."*

*<sup>34</sup> "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"*

*<sup>35</sup> The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. <sup>36</sup> Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. <sup>37</sup> For no word from God will ever fail."*

*<sup>38</sup> "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her*

1. This passage records the appearance of the angel Gabriel to Mary. According to Gabriel's promise in verses 31-33, what is true about the identity of the child that Mary was going to conceive?

This statement of Gabriel is a fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy in Isaiah 9:6-7,

For to us a child is born,  
to us a son is given,  
and the government will be on his shoulders.  
And he will be called  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
<sup>7</sup>Of the greatness of his government and peace  
there will be no end.  
He will reign on David's throne  
and over his kingdom,  
establishing and upholding it  
with justice and righteousness  
from that time on and forever.  
The zeal of the LORD Almighty  
will accomplish this.

2. How does Luke 1:26-38 provide the groundwork for the fulfillment of Isaiah 9:6-8

## ***Understand it***

3. Why do you think it is important that we see Jesus of Nazareth in His Jewish context?

The Jewish understanding of the Messiah was that He would be the King. This truth is emphasized in Matthew 2:1-11

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem <sup>2</sup> and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

<sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. <sup>4</sup>When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup>"In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

<sup>6</sup>"But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel."

<sup>7</sup>Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

<sup>9</sup>After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup>When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. <sup>11</sup>On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

1. The Magi (Wise-men) came to Bethlehem looking for the child who was born "King of the Jews". According to verses 4-8, where did the Hebrew prophets predict that the Messiah-King would be born?
2. When the Magi found Jesus in Bethlehem, according to verse 11, what was their response?
3. What does this tell you about how they perceived Jesus and His role of being the Messiah-King?

The Bible affirms both the predicted Kingship and Messiahship of Jesus. Luke's account of Jesus' birth gives us the back story before the arrival of the Magi in Matthew 2. Luke 2:4-20 states,

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David.<sup>5</sup> He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.<sup>6</sup> While they were there, the time came for the

baby to be born, <sup>7</sup> and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

<sup>8</sup> And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. <sup>9</sup> An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. <sup>11</sup> Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

<sup>13</sup> Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup> "Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

<sup>15</sup> When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

<sup>16</sup> So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup> When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, <sup>18</sup> and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. <sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

4. What did the angel say about the baby Jesus in verse 10-11?

5. According to verses 16-20, when the Shepherds saw the child for themselves, what was their response?

### ***Respond to it***

1. Why do you think it is important for people to see the Bible's description of Jesus as the Promised Messiah-King?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. The New Testament records the experiences of both the Magi and the shepherds when they encountered the new born Messiah-King (Matthew 2:9-11, Luke 2:16-20). How would you describe their thoughts, feelings and actions?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. What do you think is the connection between embracing Jesus as the Messiah-King and the affect it had on the lives of the Magi and shepherds?