## THE FAITHFULNESS OF GOD DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

**MATTHEW 1:1-25** 

0	Consider how Jesus is the prophesied Son of David and also the Son of Abraham: Throughout his Gospel, Matthew presents Jesus as the kingly Messia promised from David's royal line.			
		Look up 2 Samuel 7:12-16 to see how the Messiah would be from David. From the very first sentence in Matthew, discuss how Jesus fulfilled this prophecy.		
	Q	Matthew not only connected Jesus to David, but back yet further to Abraham. Jesus is the Seed of Abraham in whom all nations would be blessed. Discuss how Jesus is the Son of Abraham from Genesis 12:3.		
2	<b>Thi</b>	is <b>genealogy is noted for the unusual presence of four women.</b> Women were rarely mentioned in ancient genealogies, and the four mentioned here are wor-of special note as examples of God's grace. They show how God can take unlikely people and use them in great ways.		
		Tamar: Write a short bio of Tamar from Genesis 38		
		Rahab: Write a short bio of Rahab from Joshua 2; 6:22-23		
		Ruth: Write a short bio of Ruth from Ruth 1		
		Her who had been the wife of Uriah: Write a short bio of Bathsheba (who is mentioned by implication in Matthew 1:6) from 2 Samuel 11		
	Q	Discuss the unusual presence of these four women in the genealogy.		
		These four women have an important place in the genealogy of Jesus to demonstrate that He identifies with sinners in His genealogy, even as He will in His birth baptism, life, and His death on the cross. "Jesus is heir of a line in which flows the blood of the harlot Rahab, and of the rustic Ruth; he is akin to the fallen and to the lowly, and he will show his love even to the poorest and most obscure." (Spurgeon)		
3	<b>Virg</b> no l	gin Conception: How does the denial of Jesus' virgin birth affect the gospel message? So, what if Jesus had 2 biological human parents? What if Jesus had human parents? Discuss the ramifications of these questions.		
		Mary: "She was found with child of the Holy Spirit." Matthew plainly (without the greater detail found in the Gospel of Luke) presents the virginal conception and subsequent birth of Jesus. However, the virgin birth was difficult for people to believe back then, even as it is also doubted now by some.		

	What verses would you use to support the prophecy and the fulfillment of the virgin birth of Jesus? Discuss your a	nswers.
	We should consider what a great trial this was for a godly young woman like Mary, and for Joseph her betrothed. humiliating that can be conceived. Nothing but the fullest consciousness of her own integrity, and the strongest consuch trying circumstances, where her reputation, her honor, and her life were at stake." (Clarke) What additional	"Her situation was the most distressing and nfidence in God, could have supported her in thoughts do you have about this situation?
4	JESUS as Savior: "You shall call his name JESUS" The name JESUS means "The Salvation of Yahweh.") As was la name under heaven by which men must be saved (Acts 4:12). "For He will save His people from their sins" The angel work of the coming Messiah, Jesus. He will come as a savior, and come to save His people from their sins. This describes meets us in our sin, but His purpose is to save us from our sins.	ic messenger briefly and eloquently stated the
	Discuss how Jesus saves us first from the penalty of sin, then from the power of sin, and finally from the presence of	of sin.
	Discuss the link in many false religions with the denial of the depravity of man and the denial of the deity of Chris	t.
	JESUS as Immanuel: This title of Jesus refers both to His deity (God with us) and His identification and nearness to	o man (God with us).
5	Discuss the following implications of the name Immanuel:	
	It shows how low God bent down to save man; He added the nature of one of His own creatures to His own divine nature, accepting the weaknesses, frailties, and dependency that the creature experiences.	PRAYER REQUESTS
	🔗 It shows what a great miracle it was that God could add a human nature to His own and still remain God.	
	It shows that we can come to Him; because He has come to us. Whoever you may be, you need no priest or intercessor to introduce you to God, for God has introduced himself to you.	
6	What were the circumstances that led up to you giving your life to Christ? Would you be willing to share with group your salvation story?	
7	On a personal level, what are some of the circumstances in your life that cause you to question the faithfulness of God? Is there a circumstance that you feel comfortable to sharing with the group? What is a weakness in your life (personality, mental, relational or spiritual) that can cause you to be discouraged or depressed? If you desire, share a weakness and ask the group to speak truth into this situation.	