



The Birth of Jesus



SHARE

your highs and lows

Break into pairs.
Listen carefully and record your partner's thoughts in the space provided. Then return to small group and share your friend's highs and lows.

MY HIGH THIS WEEK

MY LOW THIS WEEK

MY FRIEND'S HIGH THIS WEEK

MY FRIEND'S LOW THIS WEEK



READ

and highlight the theme verse in your Bible

"Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us."

Matthew 1:20b-23



TALK

about how the Bible reading might relate to your highs and lows

Choose from the options below to enrich your Talk Time. Invite group members to take turns leading one or more of the following:

IMAGES

1. Choose either the cover photo, cartoon or painting by Dr. He Qi (back page).
2. Where are you in this work of art?
3. How might the art and the theme verse relate to each other?
4. How might the art relate to your highs and lows?

ROLE PLAY

Assign roles and take turns acting out the following:

1. A friend says, "I believe in Jesus, but I just can't believe in the virgin birth. Joseph or someone else must have been the father." Respond.
2. A 14-year-old friend is pregnant and frightened. "I don't know what to do!" she tells you in tears. "Should I keep the baby?" What do you say? What do you do?

QUESTIONS TO PONDER

1. Why do some people give up during hard times while others seem to grow stronger?
2. Where do you need a miracle in your life right now?
3. What is more difficult for you to believe: That God could come as a baby, or that God could create the miracle you need in #2 above?

QUOTATIONS

Choose a quotation (right column) and share your thoughts and questions about it.

Aren't we forgetting the true meaning of Christmas? You know, the birth of Santa?

Bart Simpson

The world doesn't need another savior and neither do I.

**Lois Lane
(in Superman Returns)**

"Maybe Christmas," he thought, "doesn't come from a store. Maybe Christmas... perhaps... means a little bit more!"

Dr. Seuss

O ye of little faith, who believe that somehow, the birth of Christ is dependent upon acknowledgment in a circular from OfficeMax!

Anna Quindlen



Write a definition...

ANGEL

CHRISTMAS

EMMANUEL

JOSEPH

MARY



Nativity by Dr. He Qi (www.heqigallery.com)



PRAY
for one another's
highs and lows

Gather in a circle. Praise and thank God for your highs. Ask the Holy Spirit to be with you in your lows. Pray for your friend's highs and lows and for your world. Close in Jesus' name.

Prayers for Highs

Prayers for Lows



BLESS
one another

Trace the sign of the cross on one another's foreheads or palms.

**REMEMBER
1 THING**

Maybe you've had a poor start in life. Remember this: The God who came as Jesus has great plans for you.



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