

L I F E G R O U P

Main Idea: From His birth to His death, King Jesus is an offense to our pride.

Reference: Matthew 1:18-25

It's important for us to continually recognize that King Jesus brings us a message and life that our unlike anything else we find on the earth. It is not of this world. And therefore at some point, each of us comes to a crossroads of deciding whether we will die to our self and truly follow Jesus. Joseph heard news of Mary's pregnancy and did not know what to do with the story. He wanted to do what's right but didn't have a grid for his future wife being the prophesied virgin or for dealing with the potential shame and misunderstanding of others. Joseph is quickly introduced to the reality that this Messiah would usher in a Kingdom that continually asks us to give up our pride and surrender all that we are to him. We see from His birth to His death, King Jesus is an offense to our pride. In His ministry, King Jesus' miracles are an offense to the religious establishment. They don't have room in their lives for a Messiah that fulfills the spirit of the law with the miraculous. And in His death, the cross becomes foolishness to those who are perishing. The cross is a continual offense to our sense of justice. It's gruesome nature is a difficult picture of God's radical love. King Jesus calls to take up our cross daily and come and follow Him.

1. Consider the story of the birth of Christ from Joseph's perspective. What are some ways that Joseph had to deal with what people thought about their story of the virgin birth? Have you ever been misunderstood because of Jesus?
2. Why are Jesus' miracles such a stumbling block to the religious leaders?
3. Why are miracles so important to the life of the church? And why are miracles such a stumbling block for some still today?
4. How is the cross an offense to our pride? Why did the disciples struggle to accept their Messiah dying on a tree?

Prayer points:

1. Pray that this Christmas we would make more room for God in our lives.
2. Pray the words of John the Baptist, "I must decrease and He must increase."

P R A Y I N G F O R T H E N A T I O N S

Mission Prayer Focus: Cameroon

Missionaries LifePointe Supports in Region: Darrell & Shaunette Hanan

Pioneer Workers Needed: 78

Number of People Groups: 292

Unreached People Groups: 17 (5.8%)

Population in Unreached: 3,512,000 (14.3%)

Specific Prayer Needs:

1. Pray for church planters to establish more effective discipleship in churches.
2. Pray for an increase in biblical literacy among those being saved.