

**Dig Deeper @Home – “Kingdom Come”
Complement to sermon on 12/9/2018 – “Re-Orienting”**

ICE BREAKER – ask these to open dialogue and learn more about those gathered

1. Do you like surprises? Why or why not?
2. If you could pick one song to describe your life right now, what would it be and why?

MEMORIZE – Matthew 21: 42-44

Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures: ‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord’s doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes?’ Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits. And the one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him.”

READ – Read Matthew 1: 18-25

Questions to ponder/discuss:

1. What does this passage reveal about God? About humanity?
2. If the above is true, what needs to change in your life?
3. What Old Testament passage is Matthew quoting in verse 23? (hint: if you have a study bible, it might tell you in the notes. If not, google it)
 - a. After finding the passage, turn to it and read it within its context
 - b. What was this verse promising in its context? How was it fulfilled in its context?
 - c. How might the original context impact the way a Jewish person would interpret Matthew’s reference to this verse as being fulfilled by Jesus? What expectations would it leave them?
 - d. Extra credit question: Since this promise was fulfilled in its original context, does this mean there were two virgins who gave birth in history? Why or why not? (hint: we believe there has been only one virgin conception and birth)
4. Verse 18 states “now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way” and ends “..until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.” What is fascinating is how little of this narrative is of the birth of Jesus compared to how much is about the dilemma of Joseph.
 - a. From this account, what can we learn about Joseph?
 - b. How long does it take Joseph to submit to and obey the commands he receives from the angel?
 - c. Verse 20 says, “But as he considered these things.” The word considered could also be translated meditated.
 - i. What does it mean to meditate?
 - ii. What does this tell us about Joseph?
 - iii. How often do you meditate on things and seek God’s direction and calling? What can you do to increase that?

Experiential: Meditating

A common picture of meditating is sitting criss-crossed with our hands slightly elevated making a humming noise all while trying to empty ourselves and clear our minds. That is not, however, the way the bible depicts meditation. One way of thinking of meditating is having an intense discussion with God about a scripture, a topic or a situation. So, maybe quiet is your thing, maybe it's music playing loudly. The point is, spend time this week meditating. Try meditating on the scripture memory verses from this DigDeeper sheet. To do that, read over it several times. Then think through word by word, asking God why that word and thinking about it from different angles. Or try meditating on a situation in life you need guidance in. The bottom line: seek God, converse with God.

Testimony Time

Share about a time you were meditating on something. What was it like? How did you hear from God?

SING (suggested songs to sing. Use these or any song you might want to sing)

Joy to the World - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HDAUPz2RohU>

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel – Mennonite Hymnal #111

PRAY

This is a time to gather around for prayer requests and to share how you have seen God at work. A time to hear where God is showing up in our lives and where we need Him to help us in our lives.

Sending prayer based on the lesson:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.