

CHRISTMAS—WHEN JESUS BECAME ONE OF US

LUKE 1:26-37, MATTHEW 1:18-23

How did you see God working in your life this week? (Romans 1:11, 12)

BACKGROUND: In this lesson we emphasize the importance of the Virgin birth of Jesus and what that means for us.

BY THE VIRGIN BIRTH—Neither Mary or Joseph contributed to any part of the miraculous conception of the baby Jesus in Mary's womb. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit. Jesus did not inherit the original sin of Adam that every other person born into this world inherits. His life is perfect and He freely gives it to those who accept Him. (Luke 1:26-37, fn 1:35, Matthew 1:18-23, fn 1:18, fn 1:20, Romans 5:12-19, fn 5:14, fn 5:15-19, John 1:12, 13, fn 1:12, 13) *Why is the virgin birth of Jesus important to you?*

TO SAVE US FROM OUR SINS—All of us have sinned. When we confess our sin, we acknowledge that our sinful life has no righteousness or goodness of its own to merit us God's commendation or the rewards of His eternal life. We trust that Jesus has paid for our sins on the cross and has exchanged our sinful life for His righteous life. This is why He became one of us at Christmas! (Matthew 1:20, 21, fn 1:20, 23, Colossians 2:13-15, fn 2:13-15, II Corinthians 5:21, fn 5:21, Romans 3:23, 24, fn 3:23, fn 3:24, John 5:24, fn 5:24) *What does Jesus' name mean and why do we need Him to save us?*

TO DWELL WITH US—Jesus dwelt *among us* and now dwells *within us* as our Emanuel (God with us). To know Jesus as Emanuel is to experience His presence, which He makes known to us by the Holy Spirit, who is given to us individually at our rebirth. (Matthew 1:23, fn 1:20-23, John 3:5-8, fn 3:6, John 14:15-21, fn 14:18, Ephesians 1:13, 14, fn 1:13, 14, Matthew 28:20) *How are you taking time to experience the presence of the Holy Spirit with the Living Word teaching you and giving you His joy, His love, and His peace?*