

SCC MEN'S SATURDAY AM BIBLE STUDY
September 26, 2026 7:30 AM – Matthew 1:18-25, Luke 1:5-38

Matthew 1:18-25 focuses on Joseph's perspective. The angel appears to Joseph in a dream, explains Mary's miraculous conception, and emphasizes Jesus as the fulfillment of Isaiah 7:14, highlighting themes of prophecy fulfillment and Jesus as "Immanuel" ("God with us"). In contrast, Luke 1:5-38 focuses on God's announcements through angelic visitations, first to Zechariah about John the Baptist's birth and then to Mary about Jesus' birth. Luke emphasizes Mary's perspective, the work of the Holy Spirit, God's favor and mercy, and how John and Jesus fit into God's unfolding salvation plan.

What's There? Searching the Scriptures

Read Matthew 1:18-25

- A. How would you feel in Joseph's place in verse 1:19-21

- B. Jesus means "the LORD saves". What do his other names and titles immediately tell us about him?

- C. Apart from fulfilling prophecy, why was Jesus' virgin birth necessary?

- D. Look up Isaiah 7:14, If Matthew 1:22 hadn't quoted it, is there anything to lead you to believe it is a Messianic prophecy? Why or why not?

Read Luke 1:5-25

Zechariah the priest is chosen to go into the most Holy Place and burn incense, a very rare privilege, and one with some trepidation attached. The custom at that time was to tie a rope around the foot of the priest chosen for this task, just in case God struck the person dead while they were inside. That way, his companions could pull out the body without having to go in themselves and thus incur God's wrath.

- E. In this scene, a nervous Zechariah shuffles inside the temple and encounters the angel Gabriel, who at first startles him, and then reassures him. What was reassuring about the angel's words?

- F. Does Zechariah's response in verse 18 surprise you, given his religious experience and training? Should he have had any reason to doubt?

Read Luke 1:26-38

- G. What truths about Jesus are emphasized in this passage?

- H. How would society view both Zechariah and Mary in terms of status, respect, experience, position etc. Who would have been expected to be the one most favored by God? Did God favor one over the other?

- I. How does Mary's response in verse 38 compare to Zechariah's in verse 18-20. (See also verse 45 for the blessing on Mary.)

So What & What Now? - Applying the Scriptures

How have you experienced Jesus as Emanuel in your life?

Have you ever encountered overwhelming evidence of God's intervention and still felt like doubting it. If so, why?