

## Royal Redeemer Going Deeper Guide

Based on the sermon for December 18, 2022:  
*We Need a Little Christmas: Presence*



**For personal reflection or for use as a devotion with  
CGS Community or family**

- **Begin by reflecting on/sharing a high and/or a low from your week**
- **CONNECT** *with each other*
  - What are a few of your favorite Christmas traditions? How might they be different this year?
- **GROW** *in Christ*

*18 This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. 19 Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. 20 But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” 22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 23 “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”). 24 When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. 25 But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.*

**Matthew 1:18-25**

  - Share any words or phrases that speak into your life today.
  - Tell a story about your experience of a “good news” Christmas. Tell about your experience of a “bad news” Christmas.
  - For some people Christmas has never been good news. For whom in your life might that be true?
  - How did people in Jesus’ day generally respond to the good news of the kingdom?
  - How did John the Baptist call the people of Jesus’ day to prepare their hearts for Jesus’ coming?
  - Advent is a season to prepare your heart for Jesus’ coming at Christmas. What are some ways you will prepare your heart this year?

- **SERVE** *others*

Consider what your family will spend for Christmas this year and set aside a portion of that amount (10%?) to help create a Christmas miracle for four families in our community. Donate to Royal Redeemer’s Christmas Miracle Offering.

- **End with Prayer, the Lord's Prayer, or a short Blessing.**