**Life Group Discussion Guide**

Matthew: The King and His Kingdom

*Scandal!*

September 19, 2021

**Reading** Matthew 1:18-25

**Intro:**

1. Sometimes major events in our life are completely unexpected. What is something in your life that you didn’t expect?

 a. If this doesn’t foster discussion…, do you remember where you were and what you were doing during the unexpected events of 9/11?

2. What’s your favorite “unexpected” detail in the Christmas story?

3. What is something you learned in last weekend’s message?

4. How did the message challenge you?

**Read Matt 1:18-21. Pray and answer the following questions**:

1. What catches you attention most in this famous passage about Jesus’ birth?

2. What do you learn about Joseph from these verses?

3. What two responsibilities did the angel call Joseph to do?

4. Why is it important that Joseph be Jesus earthly father?

5. How does Joseph’s story encourage you to cooperate with God’s program?

**Read Matt 1:22-25**

1. Jesus could have appeared in any way he chose to. Read Hebrews 4:14-15. How is Jesus’ identity as Immanuel, God with us, confirmed in these verses?

2. Why was it important for Jesus to be born as a baby? Why is God becoming man crucial for the message of Christianity?

*Answer:* The fact that God Himself came to Earth in full humanity means we don’t worship or pray to a God who has no understanding of our struggles. For 33 years, Jesus lived with the temptations, restrictions, and limitations we all face in a world marred by sin and constrained to time. Not only is He merciful and all-knowing, but we have the assurance He is empathetic as well.

1. What does this entire passage say about the faith of Joseph? What can you tell from this about his relationship with God?

2. God placed Joseph in that specific place at that specific time for a purpose. In a similar way, God has a purpose for all of us--- to glorify him and to expand his influence and rule in our world. Do you have a sense of how God wants you to fulfill that purpose in your life?

3. Pastor Ryan stated that learning our God given purpose or role begins with our relationship with Him. Is there anything holding you back, from giving God every aspect of your life?

4. What is a way that you can better align what you do with God’s program this week?