

## **The Promise of Emmanuel - Isaiah 7:14**

This teaching series will last the month of December and will include some well-known prophecies in the Book of Isaiah. God spoke to and through Isaiah to tell us some very important things about Jesus. Not only did these prophecies come to pass just as they were predicted, they were issued over 700 years before the time of Christ.

Perhaps the best-known prophecy of Isaiah that was fulfilled in the life of Jesus had to do with his birth. Isaiah speaks of a child born of a virgin as a sign. We know this part of the Isaiah promise very well. What is often missed is the context which gives us even richer meaning. Do you know why this promise was given?

During a difficult time in Israel's history, the king of Judah is told that he can ask God for a sign. The king rejects that offer. Refusing to trust in God, the king prefers to trust in himself and his own ability to maneuver through circumstances.

God responds by offering His own sign. The sign of a child born to a virgin. This sign is for all of Israel and by extension, all of humanity.

Our willingness to trust in God is challenged in this story.  
Our willingness to receive God's plans is challenged here as well.  
The fulfillment of God's sign occurs more than 700 years later in the birth of Jesus.

### **Home Group Discussion Questions:**

1. How does understanding the context of this promise in Isaiah 7 help you to understand the actual promise itself?
2. Does the reality of the birth of Jesus help you in your daily life as a Christian in any way?
3. Does the reality of God-With-You help you in your daily life as a Christian?
4. Describe a time when you trusted God when you didn't have it all figured out.
5. Are there any ways in which you are still waiting on God to "show up" and do a work in your life?