

## Doing Life Together

1. Have you received the free gift of God which is eternal life through Jesus Christ by confessing with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believing in your heart that God raised him from the dead? If not, what is stopping you? If you have, why is it meaningful to you?

Leader: If you have someone in your group who has not received Jesus as their leader and forgiver here is a simple prayer you can have them repeat after you. "God, I admit that I am a sinner. I have done many things that don't please you. I have lived my life for myself. I am sorry and I choose to reject that self-focused life and follow you and your ways. I ask you to forgive me. I believe that you died on the cross for me, to save me. You did what I could not do for myself. I come to you now and ask you to take control of my life. I give it to you. I choose to be your follower. Help me to live every day in a way that pleases you. I love you, Lord, and I thank you that I will spend all eternity with you. Amen."

## Prayer Requests



Joel & Amanda Sewell – INTERACT –  
Eden Valley (Abigail, Ruth, Abraham)

Pray for:

- Safe travel as they travel in USA until February
- Speaking at churches and connecting with family, friends, and supporters
- Amanda as she 'car schools' Abigail
- A good Christmas with extended family



## Service Opportunities



December 18, 2011 Sermon Notes

Matthew 1:18-25

## What Child is this? ... Our Savior

Two words tell us everything we need to know from this passage ...

1. Sin

1 Timothy 1:9-10  
Galatians 5:19-21

Matthew 15:11  
Romans 5:10  
Ezekiel 36:26-27

Galatians 5:22-25

2. Save

John 18:36

Luke 2:10-11,14

John 18:38

Christmas, at its Core, is about our need for Rescue

What do I need to do with what I have heard today?

# Home Bible Fellowship Study Questions

## Thinking Things Through

1. Did you have any questions about Sunday's sermon? If so, what were they?
2. Are you more inclined to think of sin in terms of a 'list' (what you do) or at attitude (I'll do it my way)? Why do you think that's your inclination?
3. Is there anything in the celebration or rituals of Christmas that creates in you the desire to 'go and see this thing' as it did for the Shepherds and the Magi?

## Digging Deeper

This week we explored the role Jesus played as Saviour as it is described in Matthew 1:21. This is the essential piece of the Christmas message and the foundational piece of the Christian faith. Whether you are brushing up on the basics, or exploring Jesus as Saviour for the first time take a moment and prepare your hearts and minds through prayer to explore the central meaning of Christmas.

### Read **Romans 3:10-12 & 23**

1. Who do these verses apply to? What are the implications?  
Leader: Note as well vs: 13-18 which details further the human condition apart from God. These verses apply to all of humanity at all points of history. When sin entered the world (see Genesis 3) humanity lost the righteousness that God had passed along to us "in his image". We were from that moment separated from God and in a different condition, a sinful condition, from the one he originally created us in. This doctrine is referred to as "original sin" and it means that not only does everyone sin but none of us inherited the righteousness that placed us in a sinless condition before God. From the moment of our birth we were lacking the right to enter God's presence.

### Read **Romans 6:23**

2. What does the author of Romans (Paul) mean by death?  
Leader: Death was not an original part of God's plan for mankind. We were originally intended to live forever in a perfect relationship with God. The death here refers to both the physical and spiritual conditions of humanity, in our sinful condition, without Christ.

3. According to this passage what has God done to address the issue of death... and... what does Jesus Christ have to do with it?

Leader: Jesus, fully God and fully man, and perfect in every way, laid down his innocent life on the cross, to pay the "wages of sin" and take our place so that the rift between God and man may be repaired and we can return to our sinless condition. See Hebrews 4:14-16

### Read **Romans 5:8**

4. What does this verse say Jesus did for us and do we deserve it?

What do you think a person must do to receive that gift?

### Read **Romans 10:9**

5. What does this verse promise? What does that mean to you?  
Leader: Refer back to Romans 6:23. There is a direct link between the free gift of God, eternal life, and being saved from our sin. They are one in the same.

6. Activity: Have different members of your group read one of the following verses, in sequence, one after the other.

### **Romans 10:13; Romans 5:1; Romans 8:1; Romans 8:38-39**

Leader: Consider having the people read these verses "round robin" style, more than once, giving time for the poignancy of these truths to sink in.

From these verses, discuss what changes for those who receive Jesus Christ as the leader and forgiver of their lives? In what condition are those who choose to reject Jesus as the leader and forgiver of their lives left in? Why would anyone not choose to embrace this gift?

Leader: The above series of verses represents what is known as The Roman's Road. It hits the highlights of the book of Romans and is used to present the essence of the Gospel message.