

# How to Use BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE: STUDENTS

## PREPARE FOR THE SESSION

Preparation is a major key to making the biggest impact possible on students. Take the time to familiarize yourself with the flow of the study each week. Make notes on the elements that stand out to you, circle important words, and underline key thoughts. Make it a point to be familiar and comfortable with the content, and you'll be in the position to lead well.

**The Point** is the main idea around which the session centers. Read through the Scripture passage several times, and make sure you clearly grasp the session's main idea. Feel free to ask the first question before diving into the session.

## ENGAGE

Choose one or more of the **Lead Options** to help students engage with the group. Make sure you have all of the supplies you may need ahead of time, and watch any videos you may use.

The optional **Leader Pack** includes items that will help you during this portion of the session, and provides additional ways to make the session interactive with PowerPoints, posters, and other resources.

## THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE

Whereas most of the content is written to the leader and is then to be passed along to students, **The Bible Meets Life** is written directly to students. Use this section as a way to engage, and then transition into the main ideas we'll use to help students learn and grow. Feel free to use the stories and illustrations provided or use your own.



**1**

**WHEN HAS SOMEONE'S PRESENCE BEEN THE ULTIMATE PRESENT FOR YOU?**

**God with Us**

**The POINT** > Jesus is Immanuel—God with us.

**> ISAIAH 7:14**  
“Therefore, the Lord himself will give you a sign. See, the virgin will conceive, have a son, and name him Immanuel.”

**> MATTHEW 1:18-25**  
“The birth of Jesus Christ came about this way: After his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, it was discovered before they came together that she was pregnant from the Holy Spirit. 19 So her husband, Joseph, being a righteous man, and not wanting to disgrace her publicly, decided to divorce her secretly.  
20 But after he had considered these things, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife, because what has been conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.  
21 She will give birth to a son, and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

22 Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet:  
23 See, the virgin will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they will name him Immanuel, which is translated “God is with us.”  
24 When Joseph woke up, he did as the Lord's angel had commanded him. He married her 25 but did not have sexual relations with her until she gave birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

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**FOR LEADERS** (15 minutes)

**THE POINT** // JESUS IS IMMANUEL—GOD WITH US.

**LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING // JESUS**  
Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of a virgin, which means He didn't inherit the sinful nature passed down from Adam, which made Him fit to be our Savior.

**Message to Leaders**  
Jesus was sent to earth because this was necessary for our salvation. Jesus is fully God and also fully man, and He shared fully in our human experience. Therefore, He is able to sympathize with us in all the struggles we face. Through Jesus, God came to be with us!

**> Engage Option 1**  
Place students in teams of four and set up a defined space with obstacles. Select two teams to compete against each other in a game of tag. Once someone is tagged, they have to join the tagging team until all teammates are tagged. Allow each team to play once. Say, “**Jesus came to the earth and became one of us. He shared in our experiences and knows what it is like to live alongside us.**”

**> Engage Option 2**  
Place a wooden manger in the center of the room. Say, “**God came to be with us by sending Jesus to be born as a human and live among us.**”

**> Engage Option 3**  
Search the internet for “Charles Swenson: God with Us.” Play the

**LEADER PACK ELEMENTS**  
If you have the optional Leader Pack, consider the following:  
**ITEM 1:** Introduce the new unit by displaying the **Unit 1 Irrefutable Poster**.

**THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE**

**THE POINT** // JESUS IS IMMANUEL—GOD WITH US.



It was the biggest night of my senior basketball season. Our team wasn't great, but somehow we made the state semi-finals. Because this was unexpected, my dad had booked an event out of town and was going to miss the game. I was crushed! I'll never forget my dad's words after he heard my pleas: “Son, I promise I'll be there.”

The gym that night was filled with incredible anticipation. The place was packed with fans, but I was only concerned about one person. Would my dad be able to keep his promise? As our fight song filled the arena, I took the floor with my teammates and looked up into the stands, and there was my dad cheering me on. He had kept his promise!

In a world that is filled with broken promises, I am thankful for an earthly father who kept his. But I am most thankful for our heavenly Father who always keeps His promises. Because God kept His promise given through the prophet Isaiah, we can celebrate Immanuel—God with us.

**THE SETTING**  
Like the other three Gospel writers, Matthew wrote his account to show readers that Jesus is the Messiah promised in the Old Testament prophecies. Matthew often quoted from those prophecies, like Isaiah 7:14, to stress how Jesus fulfilled them. He began his Gospel by demonstrating how Jesus was a direct descendant of King David, and then described how God spoke through an angel to Jesus' earthly father, Joseph, to assure him of Jesus' true identity and role.

**FACT:**  
The game of basketball was created by James Naismith in 1891. He was a PE teacher and needed a way to keep his class busy on rainy days.”

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## IMPART (30 minutes)

THE POINT // JESUS IS IMMANUEL—GOD WITH US.

### ISAIAH 7:14

Therefore, the Lord himself will give you a sign: See, the virgin will conceive, have a son, and name him Immanuel.

ISAIAH 7:14

Any announcement of a new child is exciting. Isaiah 7:14 is not only an exciting announcement, but the prophet Isaiah also shared some important details about the birth of a very special baby. In the past, God had promised to send a Messiah to rescue His people from slavery. In Isaiah 7:14, we learn two very important details about the Messiah God would send:

- He would be born of a virgin.
- His name would be Immanuel.

Before we consider the importance of these two details, let's understand the context of this prophecy. God raised up the prophet Isaiah—whose name means "Yahweh is salvation"—during a time when Israel was experiencing terrible struggles. Isaiah 7 speaks of a time when Israel was under attack, and the people were terrified. Through not only the prophet's name, but especially through his message, God helped the people to understand that only God could truly save them. Ahaz was the king of Judah, and God offered to give him a sign of His power to deliver Israel from their enemies. However, Ahaz had already been planning to ask Assyria for help and, therefore, didn't think he needed God's help. Upon hearing King Ahaz's refusal, Isaiah spoke to all Israel—God would give a sign anyway! The people had lived wickedly and tested God's patience, but God had a sign for them.

Many prophecies refer to more than one event: one that happens at the time of the prophecy, and one which is ultimately fulfilled in Christ. There was certainly only one virgin birth! However, the Hebrew word for "virgin" can refer to a young maiden, and a son born to Ahaz was likely a source of comfort and confidence in God—the son was a sign that God would fulfill His promises.

The ultimate fulfillment of Isaiah 7:14 was a truly miraculous virgin birth. Though Ahaz's son helped the people to understand that God would protect them, it was only a temporary delivery from enemy armies. The virgin birth of Jesus helps us to know beyond any doubt that God will deliver us from sin and death.

To pay for our sins, Jesus had to become one of us. To be born to an earthly father and mother means that Jesus would inherit Adam's sin, just like the rest of us. Through the virgin birth, Jesus became a human while remaining sinless. Jesus is fully man and He is fully God. God is with us!

**VERSE 14:** God's promises are foundational to our relationship with Him. God invites us into relationship with Him on the basis of a covenant, or solemn promise. Of course, all promises are important, and we should always keep our word. Still, some promises carry increased significance. One reason we can trust God for eternity is that He never breaks His promises. The Bible is full of promises from God, and many of these were spoken through the prophets about things that would happen in the future, and their fulfillment allows us to have greater confidence in God.

**DAILY DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE (P. 6)**

- 1 What's the first thing that comes to mind when you hear the word "prophecy"?
- 2 Why is it significant that Jesus' birth was foretold hundreds of years before it happened?

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## ➤ IMPART

The **Impart** section focuses on the main biblical truth students should take away from the session. It's meant to be interactive, so lean heavily into the questions, which are numbered so students can easily follow along. Small sections of commentary are provided to help you gain a deeper understanding of the content.

## A word from THE EDITOR



We all want our lives to go smoothly. However, if that's what we expect, we'll be disappointed or frustrated more often than we'd

like to admit. Things go wrong and life doesn't always turn out the way we imagined.

Joseph knew all too well what this feels like. Yet, despite facing the worst kinds of difficulties, he refused to give in to temptation; he chose forgiveness instead of bitterness. No matter what life threw at him, he kept his eyes on the Lord, and he looked forward to what God would do in his life.

We'll likely see similar challenges from Joseph's story in our own lives. People will treat us poorly. We'll face unfair treatment. We'll feel ignored or forgotten. And we'll likely be tempted to focus on all that's going wrong or even become bitter. Whatever the case, we can learn from Joseph's example how to move beyond the pains and frustrations of life, how to pursue reconciliation when others hurt us, and how to focus, above all, on God and His purposes for our lives.

**JEFF BELCHER**  
Content Editor, Bible Studies for Life

## ➤ LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING

**Levels of Biblical Learning** consists of statements covering ten biblical concept areas which help students learn doctrines central to our faith. Each week will focus specifically on one statement which relates directly to The Point. Over the course of the year, students will cover all 52 statements and will build a foundation for a mature faith.

## LIVE IT OUT (10 minutes)

THE POINT // JESUS IS IMMANUEL—GOD WITH US.

### LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING // JESUS

Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of a virgin, which means He didn't inherit the sinful nature passed down from Adam, which made Him fit to be our Savior.

Jesus was sent to earth because this was necessary for our salvation. Jesus is fully God and also fully man, and He shared fully in our human experience. Therefore, He is able to sympathize with us in all the struggles we face. Through Jesus, God came to be with us!

### ➤ CHRIST

Our sin has brought relational separation between us and God. However, Jesus came so that our relationship with God could be restored, and He is with us today. For us to experience God's presence in our lives, we must spend time in Scripture and in prayer.

9 How will you commit to engaging in both prayer and Scripture this week?

GOD

**JESUS**

HOLY SPIRIT

BIBLE

SALVATION

CREATION

CHURCH

PEOPLE

FAMILY

COMMUNITY & WORLD

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## ➤ LIVE IT OUT

Biblical truth is meant to be lived out in real ways. **Christ, Community, and Culture** challenges students to consider how they can apply what they learn in their personal relationship with God, within the context of their church family, and to the lost world.