

## **Connect Group Guide: WK 25** **“The Whole Story” Who is Jesus?**

### **Opening**

Begin by reading Matthew 1:18–25 together.

Ask someone to summarize the sermon in 2–3 sentences: *What stood out? What challenged you? What made you think differently about Jesus?*

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. “Who do YOU say that I am?” — Jesus’ question to Peter

- When you think about Jesus right now, not what you’ve been taught your whole life... Who is Jesus to *you*? Is He LORD? Savior? Helper? Distant? Close? Optional? Everything?
- Matthew introduces Jesus as Christ (which means King/Lord).
- In what areas of your life is Jesus truly LORD—meaning He gets the final say?
- In what areas do you honestly still function as your own boss? (Be real: habits, relationships, money, decisions, priorities, identity, control.)

2. “God. With. Us.” — How do you really view His presence?

Jesus is IMMANUEL.

- When life gets hard, which view describes you more?
- – God WITH me
- – God AGAINST me
- – God is DISAPPOINTED in me
- – God is DISTANT from me
- Why do you think you see Him that way?

3. Jesus stepped into our mess — Do you let Him into yours?

- Jesus came to be with US—broken, sinful, imperfect people. Which is harder for you to believe?:
  - a. “I’m not too bad to need saving,”
  - b. “I’m not too broken to be saved”?
- How do those beliefs shape the way you relate to Jesus?

4. Savior — What do you *really* think you need saving from?

- Everyone tries to be their own savior (which is really just religion): good works, avoiding sin, being nice, fixing themselves.
- In your honest moments, what do you still try to “save yourself” from instead of trusting Jesus?
- What would it look like to fully trust Jesus as your Savior this week?

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### **5. Identity Check — If Jesus is King, what changes?**

- If Jesus is really:
  - The Christ (King)
  - Son of David (the True Ruler)
  - God with Us (present)
  - Savior (Rescuer)
- How would your life look different tomorrow if you believed all of that 100%?
- Name one specific change.

### **6. “God with US” — Who is “us”?**

- Jesus came to be with ordinary, messy people.
- Who in your life needs to experience “God with them” through you this week?
- What is one practical way you can show them Jesus?

### **7. “Now What?” — Response Matters**

- After reading Matthew 1:18–25, what is the Holy Spirit nudging you to do next? Is it trust? Repentance? Obedience? Letting go? Asking forgiveness? Surrendering control?
- When you think about Jesus—who He is and what He’s done—what emotion rises in you? Gratitude? Fear? Distance? Love? Shame? Joy? Why do you think that emotion comes up?

### **Group Prayer Time**

Close by praying over two things: (Encourage members to pray short, honest prayers—not long paragraphs)

- “Jesus, show us who You really are.”
- “Help us respond to You with trust, surrender, and obedience.”

### **Important Announcements:**

- 12/14/2025 Connect Group Training-This will be held right after church and lunch will be provided. If you are interested in becoming a Connect Group Leader now or in the near future, please send Pastor Stanley a text or message, so we can plan accordingly.
- 12/14/2025 Connection Students Christmas Party- This will be same time as usual (6pm-8pm). We are asking all students to please bring a new ornament wrapped for a FUN game!
- 12/21/2025 Konnection Kids Christmas Party- We have planned a lot of fun crafts for the children to complete during KK on this Sunday, along with enjoying hot coco and doughnuts!! We are asking the kids to come in their Christmas Jammies or a “Ugly Christmas Sweater”. Adults are encouraged to wear their Christmas Pj’s or Ugly Christmas Sweater as well!!

**Remember JESUS is the REASON for the SEASON!!**