

miracle in a **M** **NGER**

WEEK 3 - CHRIST IN A LOW-CLASS FAMILY OVERVIEW

Most of the biblical texts envisioning the coming of the Messiah associate him with royalty. The vision of a gilded savior at the head of an army, ruling on a throne, and bringing prosperity to Israel gave the lower classes hope that their fortunes would one day change. How shocking and unexpected, then, for the Messiah to be born into a low-class family of peasants, too poor to afford a lamb as a sacrifice, too unimportant to sleep in their crowded family's guestroom? What do we learn about the love of God that he would so radically associate himself with the poor and marginalized by being born as one of them?

If a woman cannot afford to bring a lamb, she must bring two turtledoves or two young pigeons.

Leviticus 12:8

*So they offered the sacrifice required in the law of the Lord—
"either a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."*

Luke 2:24

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Share about a time when your expectations were different than reality.
2. Read the following Old Testament prophecies: Genesis 49:10, Isaiah 11:1-11, Micah 5:2, Isaiah 9:6-7, Jeremiah 23:5-6.
 - a. What words or phrases stand out to you?
 - b. What expectations did the Israelites have for their Messiah?
3. How do you think the reality of Jesus' birth compared to the expectations Mary and Joseph had?
4. Read the verses in the overview above and Mark 6:3. What do these verses signify, and why does it matter?
5. Read John 1:10 and Luke 2:11-12.
 - a. Why didn't they recognize him?
 - b. Why do you think Jesus entered the world as a baby in a low-class family?
 - c. Do you recognize him? What would your life look like if you did?
6. Read Matthew 5:3-10 and Matthew 25:37-40. Have you dedicated your life to the humble pursuit of Jesus and all that he identified with, as stated in this passage? If so, in what ways? Where do you think you might have opportunity to grow?