



## Week 1: Horton Hatches the Egg

### MATTHEW 1:18-25

1. Do you have a favorite children's story? If so, what is it? What was your favorite fictional character when you were a child? Why?
2. "Horton Hatches the Egg" tells the story of an elephant who agrees to temporarily sit on the egg of a bird named Mayzie, who needs to take a short vacation. Mayzie decides not to return to her egg and Horton is stuck sitting on the egg for a long period of time. While he would be justified in backing out on his commitment because Mayzie did not return, instead Horton remains faithful and stays on the egg, protecting it until it hatches. What do you think is the moral of the story?
3. Pastor Mark suggests that just as Horton is faithful to his word, God is faithful to His word and God always keeps His promises. How is this related to the birth of Jesus?
4. Why did God promise to send a Messiah, a Savior into our world?
5. As the year 2020 draws to a close in the coming weeks, Pastor Mark suggests we ask ourselves two questions in order to prepare our hearts for Christmas. The first question is this: Can I focus on what I've learned rather than what I've lost over the past year? Share one lesson you have learned (or been reminded of) in the past year.
6. In what ways has resilience and perseverance been required of you in 2020?
7. The second question to consider is this: Am I staying faithful or am I starting to drift? In what ways has it been tempting to drift from our faith in God over the past year? In what ways has your faith been tested?
8. The story of "Horton Hatches the Egg" is a type of narrative known as a "Compare and Contrast Story." This type of story was often used by Jesus. Compare Horton to Mayzie. What qualities stand out that demonstrate the difference between these two characters?
9. Read Hebrews 12:1-5. What is the key to "running the race with perseverance"?
10. Our Christian Faith teaches us that this earthly life is temporary and that because of Jesus, we will experience a much more glorious life when this life is through? Why is that an important promise to keep in mind as we go through the challenges of this life?