

## A Christmas Story: Week Two

Matthew 1:18-25

Romans 5:6-11

1. Can you recall a time when you didn't live up to your own expectations? What were the circumstances? How did you respond?
2. Pastor Mark says that the truth about us is that we are "sinners." How do you feel about that word, "sinner"?
3. There are two categories of sin, "sins of omission" which are good things we should do, but frequently neglect. And "sins of commission" which are destructive things we should not do, but we do them anyway. Share an example of a sin of omission and an example of a sin of commission.
4. Why do you think it is important to confess our sins to God? He already knows of our sins, why should we confess them in prayer?
5. Read Matthew 1:21. Pastor Mark points out that the name "Jesus" means "the Lord saves." How does Jesus "save us from our sins?"
6. Read Romans 5:8. How does understanding the depth of our sin allow us to appreciate the depth of God's love for us?
7. Why do you think many modern people believe that Christianity teaches the idea that God loves us because we basically good, decent people?
8. What would you say to a person who says, "I don't need Jesus to be my savior, I'm basically a good person."
9. Pastor Mark suggests that the message of the Bible is that we are more deeply sinful than we ever would have realized, but more deeply loved than we ever could have imagined. Do you think that is accurate? Why or why not?
10. The first verse of the Hymn, "Amazing Grace" goes like this: Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me. I once was lost, but now I am found, was blind, but now I see." What does the word "grace" mean to you?