



**Part 3:
From the Stable to the Table**

**Grant Fishbook, Teaching Pastor
December 21 & 22, 2013**

When Joseph held Jesus...

He was holding a promise.

“But you Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over all Israel, whose origins are from old, from ancient time. Therefore, Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labor gives birth...” Micah 5:2-3a

“He will stand and shepherd His flock in the strength of the Lord and in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach the ends of the earth. And he will be their peace.” – Micah 5:4-5

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be upon his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” – Isaiah 9:6

He was holding Immanuel - God with us.

“The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, you will call him Immanuel.” – Isaiah 7:14

He was holding Christ the Lord. (Luke 2:8-20)

Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised and we esteemed him not.

Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities – the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. – Isaiah 53:1-5

(Continues on back)

He was holding a sacrifice.

We all like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way, and the Lord has laid on him, the iniquity of us all. – Isaiah 53:6

He was holding love.

Love is patient. Love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud, it is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices in the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails. – 1 Corinthians 13:4-8

Next Steps

In the space below, write down the name of each person who you will invite to Christmas Eve at Christ the King. For each person or family you write down, pick up an invitation in the Commons. See details on today's program insert.

Small Group Questions

- 1) What your favorite and least favorite thing about babies?
- 2) If you're a parent, do you remember what you felt when you first held your own child?
- 3) The prophecies about Jesus are striking. Read these ancient words again in this outline. What is God speaking to you when you read these words about Jesus?
- 4) Read Luke 2 out loud. How does the Christmas story touch your heart?
- 5) How can you practically hold Jesus in your heart in the coming week?
- 6) What do you need prayer for today?

OUR MISSION | To create an authentic Christian community that effectively reaches out to unchurched people in love, acceptance and forgiveness so that they may experience the joy of salvation and a purposeful life of discipleship.