

Theme: The story of the first Christmas, recorded in Matthew 1 and 2, is full of surprises, each of which reveals an aspect of the Gospel that still has the power to amaze us today.

## I. Surprise Family Tree

- A. Theme: Matthew's genealogy presents Jesus as the royal Son of David, the promised Seed of Abraham who will bless all nations, and the Savior who redeems a family tree—and a world—marred by startling sin and scandal.
- B. Text: Matthew 1:1-17
- C. Response: Communion
- D. Benediction: Romans 15:13
- E. Teaching keywords: Advent and Christmas; biblical characters; redemption; new creation; hope

## II. Surprise Pregnancy

- A. Theme: Jesus' miraculous conception confronted Joseph and Mary with a scandalous, faith-testing situation that required radical obedience, revealing how God fulfills His ancient promises through the most surprising means.
- B. Text: Matthew 1:18-25
- C. Response: Communion
- D. Benediction: Romans 15:13
- E. Teaching keywords: Advent and Christmas; biblical characters; Incarnation; salvation and deliverance; faith; obedience; prophecy (Old Testament)

## III. Surprise Reactions

- A. Theme: In a surprising twist, the news about Jesus unmasked three responses still common today: Herod's hostile fear, the religious leader's complacent indifference, and the Magi's joyful worship.
- B. Text: Matthew 2:1-18
- C. Response: Communion
- D. Benediction: Romans 15:13
- E. Teaching keywords: Advent and Christmas; biblical characters; sin; exile and return; joy; prophecy (Old Testament)

## IV. Surprise Worshippers

- A. Theme: In a stunning Christmas surprise, the Magi—pagan scholars skilled in religious texts, dreams, and the stars—become the first Gentile worshippers of Jesus, foreshadowing God's plan to call followers from every nation.
- B. Text: Matthew 2:1-23
- C. Response: Communion
- D. Benediction: Psalm 67:1-3
- E. Teaching keywords: Advent and Christmas; biblical characters; worship; evangelism and missions

## **V. Christmas Surprises**

- A. Theme: The story of the first Christmas, recorded in Matthew 1 and 2, is full of surprises, each of which reveals an aspect of the Gospel that still has the power to amaze us today.
- B. Text: Matthew 1:18-23
- C. Response: Silent Night/Candle Lighting/O Come Let Us Adore Him
- D. Benediction: Romans 15:13
- E. Teaching keywords: Advent and Christmas; biblical characters; salvation and deliverance

Christmas Surprises  
Advent 2025