Jesus as Son of God Summary Sheet

This handout is about the significance of Jesus as Son of God in Christianity and about different interpretations of the Virgin Birth.

Key terms:

**betrothed** - engaged to be married

**Evangelicals** - Christians who believe in the Bible more literally

**Immaculate Conception** – the belief that Jesus was born by virgin birth, without sin

**Liberal Christians** - members of churches who combine Christian ideas with modern, non-religious ideas

**Virgin Birth** – the idea (found in the Bible) that Jesus’s mother was a virgin when he was born and that his father was not Joseph but God

Key passages:

Matthew chapter 1

18Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit.  19And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. 20But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”  22All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

23“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
    and they shall call his name Immanuel”

(which means, God with us). 24When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, 25but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

Luke chapter 1

**26**In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, **27**to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. **28**And he came to her and said, “Greetings, O favoured one, the Lord is with you!” **29**But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be.**30**And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. **31**And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. **32**He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, **33**and he will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

Interpretations:

**Roman Catholics and Evangelicals:**

The Bible is literally true. The Gospels are historically accurate and relate true events of God intervening in the world supernaturally. Miracles are well within God’s capabilities. Jesus is not the son of Joseph; he is God in human form. If he had a human biological father then he would not be the true Son of God, nor would he be God in human form.

**Liberal Christians:**

The Bible is not literally true and the events of the birth of Jesus are not historical. The writers were just trying to show that Jesus was a special person. Joseph was the real father of Jesus or somebody else who got Mary pregnant outside of marriage. We cannot really believe in a Virgin Birth.