

GOD WITH US - CHRISTMAS

¹⁸ This is how Jesus the Messiah was born. His mother, Mary, was engaged to be married to Joseph. But before the marriage took place, while she was still a virgin, she became pregnant through the power of the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Joseph, to whom she was engaged, was a righteous man and did not want to disgrace her publicly, so he decided to break the engagement quietly. ²⁰ As he considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. "Joseph, son of David," the angel said, "do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For the child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit. ²¹ And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²² All of this occurred to fulfill the Lord's message through his prophet: ²³ "Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means 'God with us.'" Matthew 1:18-23 NLT

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ...¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. ... John 1:1, 14

"If you love me, keep my commands. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever—¹⁷ the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. ¹⁸ I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. ¹⁹ Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. John 14:15-19

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matthew 28:19-20

And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²² All of this occurred to fulfill the Lord's message through his prophet: ²³ "Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means 'God with us.'" Matthew 1:21-23 NLT

Journey Group Discussion

Talking through the message during the week helps you turn what God is saying to you into action steps. These talking points, questions, and scriptures are designed to help you take the next step. If you're leading a group through this guide, don't feel like you have to answer every question. Pick out those questions that will stir up conversation and action among your group.

Start talking. Find a conversation starter for your group.

- What's your favorite Christmas tradition?
- Did your family read the Christmas story growing up?

Start thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking.

- How did this message change the way you think about the Christmas story?
- Which part of Jesus' human experience means the most to you?

Start sharing. Choose a question to create openness.

- Read Matthew 28:19-20. How will you respond to His command this next year? How have you seen Jesus follow through on His promise at the end of this passage?
- Jesus went through a lot to be with you. What have you done, or what do you want to do to make room for Him?
- What are you facing that you need Jesus to enter into as Immanuel?

Start praying. Be bold and pray with power.

God, thank You for sending Jesus to be with us, to give up everything for us. Thank You for raising Him back to life. Thank You giving us real and full life through Him. Thank You for sending Your Holy Spirit to be in us. We ask You to bring the reality and presence of Jesus into our thinking, our praying, our decisions, and each area of our lives this next year. We pray this by the power of Jesus' name. Amen.

Start doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- How will you continue to encounter Jesus this week?
- What are you asking Jesus to do in your life?