

FAITHFULLY FOLLOWING JESUS

DINNER TIME DISCUSSION:

How have you experienced Jesus as Immanuel (God with us) in your life recently?

GOSPEL IN EVERYDAY LIFE:

Each morning during your morning commute to work or school, make it a point to say (to yourself or out loud) "God is WITH me today." Reflect on the magnitude of that truth. At the end of the week, note any changes you experienced (in mood, perspective, actions, etc...).

FOR FURTHER STUDY:

There are several resources for further study linked on our webpage. Go there to find: encouraging videos of the work God is doing around the world and several prayer resources, including a link to the Operation World app which guides you through prayer for each country of the world on a daily basis.

MEMORY VERSE:

It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed.

Deuteronomy 31:8, ESV

DEVELOPING DISCIPLINES:

As we begin talking about a plan to grow spiritually in the new year, think about what time and place each day might be the best uninterrupted time to be WITH God. Ask Him when and where He thinks is best. Invite him into the process of developing this intentional plan.



To be a Christ centered community helping people faithfully follow Jesus both locally and globally.

Leader Resource Guide

Date: November 28, 2021

The Gift of God's Presence



SERMON NOTES

Matthew 1:18-25

GOD

WITH

US

COMMUNITY BUILDING

What do you know about your family's history / genealogy?

Agree or disagree:

God is moving towards humans. He pursues relationship with them.

Give evidence for or against from your own life.

CHRIST CENTERED DISCUSSION:

1. What titles does Matthew assign to Jesus in 1:1 and 16? What is the meaning or significance of each title?
2. Apart from fulfilling prophecy, why was Jesus' virgin birth necessary?
3. What is the significance of there being 5 women mentioned in Jesus' genealogy? Three were involved in sexual sin (see [Genesis 38](#), [Joshua 2](#), and [II Samuel 11 & 12](#)); one was a desperately poor immigrant field-worker; and Mary was innocent, but thought to have been unfaithful to her fiancé, Joseph. What does this show regarding God's plan to save his people from their desperate circumstances?
Use [Romans 1:16](#), [Romans 2:11](#) and [Romans 4:5](#) to get at the idea that the gospel is for everyone, without partiality, where faith is present.
4. What reason does Matthew 1:21 give as to why Jesus was born?

5. Pastor Dave talked about the idea of “with” and the incarnation of Jesus. Define “incarnation.” What does it mean that Jesus is with you?
6. The Great Commission in Matthew 28:18-20 was referenced in our recent series on missions ([What in the World is God Doing?](#)). Connect [Isaiah 7:14](#) and [Matthew 1:23](#) with [Matthew 28:20](#). How should living out the Great Commission be affected by the reality that Jesus is with us?
7. How does God’s “with-ness” with you affect your every day life? Or how could it? What would life be like if the truth of God’s desire to be with you (and therefore, salvific plan to make that happen) was truly and fully pressed into your soul?
For many people, just even thinking about God being with you brings a level of peace, assurance of being fully known and loved, a reminder that you don’t have to have your act together to be accepted by God. It’s incredibly freeing somehow. For others, it might bring a level of fear, guilt or a sense of unworthiness. Dig into what these thoughts and emotions reveal about perceptions of God and ourselves. Bring the truth of Scripture to bear on these perceptions.