

Sermon Discussion Guide:

The Promise of Immanuel

Sunday, November 27, 2022

Scripture: **Matthew 1:23**

Series: **The Promise of Advent**

OVERVIEW

During the Advent season, we reflect upon the arrival of Jesus Christ into the world which fulfills God's promise in Isaiah 7:14 and Matthew 1:23 that He will be with his people. In fact, Immanuel means "God with us." No matter our circumstances, **the nearness of God is the joy and strength of all who believe.**

CORROBORATING TEXTS

Galatians 4:4-5; Isaiah 7:14, 9:6, 53:4-6; Romans 5:8, 8:11; Ezekiel 36:26-27; 1 Corinthians 6:19; John 3:16; Ephesians 1:4; 1 John 4:9-10; Psalm 16:8, 34:18, 73:28, 145:18; James 4:8

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Describe a time when you eagerly awaited the arrival of a person or an event. Did the eventual experience match your level of anticipation or were you disappointed?
2. **Immanuel: *Taking Our Place*.** John 11:14a says, "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us." Jesus, being fully God, took on a fully human nature. This, in essence, is the incarnation. Why is the incarnation essential to understanding how God takes our place?
3. **Immanuel: *Dwelling In Us*.** God dwells in each one of his people, individually. He has given the believer a new heart and a new spirit. Looking back over this past year, how have you experienced God dwelling in you?
4. **Immanuel: *Loving Us*.** Scripture is filled with testaments to God's love for his people. He chose us before the foundations of the world and, in Jesus, died for us so that we may have eternal fellowship with Him. In what ways has the love of God impacted you? How does God continue to demonstrate His love for you?
5. Read Psalm 16:8, Psalm 34:18, Psalm 73:28, and Psalm 145:18. Which of these promises of Immanuel resonate with you most right now? Why?
6. In your present circumstances, is there a specific promise of God's nearness that you need most? In what ways can you draw near to God and experience His presence?