



## **Week 2 – The Promise of Emmanuel**

### **How to use This Guide:**

Talking through the message during the week helps you and your group turn what God is saying to you into action steps. Begin with the discussion questions, add any optional scriptures and questions if needed, and then wrap up by deciding on your next steps.

### **Discussion Questions:**

- What's one of the greatest Christmas gifts you've ever given to another person?

### **With your Bible or YouVersion, read Matthew 1:18-25.**

This passage describes the birth of Jesus and explains the meaning of Jesus' name, which is God with us.

- What do you think causes you to sometimes feel distant from God?
- In what ways have you experienced God being with you?

### **Read Luke 1:28, Genesis 39:21, and Romans 8:35-39.**

These verses show us that God is with you, God was with you, and that God will always be with you.

- How do you need God's presence to help you in enduring whatever difficult circumstances you are currently facing?
- What are some of the unique ways that you best connect to God?
- Describe a difficult situation you successfully endured thanks largely to God's presence in your life?
- Do you find it easier or harder to experience God during the Christmas season? Explain.
- What steps do you need to take to experience more of God?
- What things in your life are you anticipating for the future that will require God's presence to guide you?
- How do you worship God? Is worship more than just singing in your life?
- **What was your biggest take-away from the weekend message?**
- **What did God say to you today through His Word? And what are you going to do about it!**

### **Next Steps**

Our culture has planted this equation in us: "Spending money = love." So an invitation to "spend less" feels jarring and unloving. But the equation is false. We can spend many things besides money on others—energy, time, creativity, and love. Spending money on unneeded "stuff" is not love; it's just spending. Think through specific plans as to how you can spend less, yet love more, this Advent season. Pray about how you can support our special Christmas Offering at Cornerstone.

## **5 Day Devotional**

1. Thank God for continually being with you in both the good and bad times.
2. Share with God any difficult circumstances you are facing. Ask Him to be with you and help you endure.
3. Ask God to help you experience more of Him.
4. Ask God to make His presence known to you during those times that He feels distant to you.
5. Pray for those you know that need to experience God in their life. Ask God to make His presence known to them.