



Small Group Study Guide

SENT

DELIVERING
THE GIFT OF HOPE
AT CHRISTMAS

December 13, 2020: “Jesus is God With Us”

OPENING PRAYER

Lord Jesus, help us to grow more comfortable and trusting in your presence each day, so that we can look forward with greater joy and hope to knowing you more completely and being with you through all eternity. Amen.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES:

Matthew 1:20-23

*“Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: “Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him **Emmanuel**,” which means, “God is with us.”*

Hebrews 1:1-3

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God’s glory and the exact imprint of God’s very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word.

INTRODUCTION

One of the unique things Christians believe is that God became one of us. And every December we celebrate this event. But what are the implications for us that God became one of us?

God came to this earth in the form of a human baby. This has three implications for us. First, God knows and understands us because he has walked in our shoes. Second, he shows us who God is. Third, so that we know that he is always with us. Those are the blessings of Emmanuel. But the blessings come with expectations too. Our call as followers of Emmanuel is to incarnate his love, life, and good news to other people. We are to be visible reminders that God is with us, that God is love, and that we don't have to be afraid.

QUESTIONS

- 1) Have you seen the movies "Bruce Almighty" or "Evan Almighty?" How do you feel about Hollywood's portrayal of God? What is different about how God enters the world in these movies compared to how he enters the world in the Christmas story?
- 2) Do you struggle believing that God was born into this world as an infant conceived by the Holy Spirit? Does your belief or disbelief affect your faith?
- 3) What are some visible reminders in your life that God is with you?
- 4) Jesus said to his disciples the night before the crucifixion "*Whoever has seen me has seen the Father.*" How does Jesus help you relate to God?
- 5) What are some ways you can embody Emmanuel (God with us) for others this Christmas?

FINAL APPLICATION

This week, prayerfully consider how your life has been affected by believing that Jesus is Emmanuel (God with us)?