

TALK IT OVER

Emmanuel: God Is with Us

BOTTOM LINE

God is with us always.

CONVERSATION STARTER

Do you travel for Christmas or stay home? What person you don't normally see would you like to be with at Christmas?

THINGS TO CONSIDER

What did you hear?

What do you think?

What will you do?

RESOURCES

- The Daily: newpointe.org/thedaily
- [What God Is Like](#) by Andy Stanley (36 min.)

KEY VERSES AND QUOTES

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel (which means "God with us"). Matthew 1:23-24 NIV

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:14 NIV

Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me. Revelation 3:20 NIV

"The fear of the unknown is the greatest cause of anxiety today."

"Sometimes God's will is hard. We know that the will of man is usually easier, but it is often filled with regret."

"Acting on my fears will always impact my destiny."

"God in Christ is Emmanuel. He has entered into the messiness of life and walks with us in every circumstance. He desires to be with us in the most intimate and vulnerable way."

"Every time I worry, I feed the monster that strangles the promise of my future."
– Quotes by Dwight Mason

TALK IT OVER

Fear of the unknown is most likely the greatest fear in every generation. How is that true or untrue in your life? What fears Joseph and Mary must have experienced are familiar to you as well? Trusting God when I don't know the outcome is challenging. How does knowing God is with you help you? What promises does God make that remind you He is with you when you fear the unknown? How do you handle the power of the "what-ifs" that come to your mind? How can you actively stop "feeding the monster"? When I act on my fears I am agreeing with the Enemy. Ouch. Discuss. God doesn't simply watch from a distance -- He comes near. How can you intentionally participate in raising your awareness that God is near and with you when fear knocks? How is knowing God through Christ in an ongoing transformative personal relationship impacting your fears right now? God has promised He will never leave us or forsake us (Hebrews 13:5). Where do I need to trust RIGHT NOW that God is with me?

ACTION STEP

Fear drives a wedge between me and experiencing the presence of Emmanuel, God with me. Right now and daily I will trust Him in these situations where I fear the unknown by intentionally cooperating with Him through these specific actions: _____