

Immanuel: GOD WITH US

God weaved together the life of Isaiah and Jesus over a span of 700 years to teach us the significance of His presence. God, who can see thousands of years into the future, pieced together two significant events to teach us about His never fading love.

Looking at these two accounts, what do we learn about God's presence?

When you feel _____, look for _____ that God is with you.

When you're _____ for fulfillment, _____ that God is with you.

The BENEFITS of living in God's presence:

_____.

Unlimited _____ power.

_____ perspective.

_____.

Discussion Questions

Getting Started

1. When and where have you sensed God's presence most in your life? Have there been certain moments when you have been overwhelmed with the awareness that God is in close proximity to you? Share with the group those experiences.

Digging Deeper

2. Read Ephesians 2:18-22. Discuss how the Church is a place where God dwells through His Spirit.
3. Just as Moses didn't want to go anywhere outside of God's presence, make this your prayer: "If your presence does not go with us, then do not send us" (Exodus 33:14-15).
4. Have you ever had an experience like Jacob, where you experience God's presence in a place you were not expecting, but it then becomes a holy place for you (Genesis 28:16-17)?

Applying the Word to Life

5. Read James 4:7-10. What can you specifically do to invite the presence of God in your life?
6. If you are feeling shaken right now, ask God for a sign that He is with you. This week make this your prayer and be watching and waiting for His presence to be revealed to you in even the smallest ways.
7. Do you experience the four main benefits of God's presence in your life? If you lack one of these benefits, then ask yourself what aspect of God's presence are you not aware of in your life. Are you regularly going to God for direction in life? Do you believe that at any time God can and will do amazing miracles? Do you accept difficult problems with an eternal perspective? Does God daily fill you with a calming peace?