



Second Week of Advent

Sermon Points: Mark 9:14-29

We can stay near to Immanuel through (imperfect) faith and obedience.

Immanuel is always present and working, despite the messiness of life.

Immanuel works through our imperfect faith and obedience, because often times imperfect faith and obedience are all we have.

Group Opener:

Remind your small group of plans (or make plans) on how you will serve others and celebrate this Christmas season.

For example, serving at Christmas Eve services, inviting to Christmas services, Angel Tree, Small Group Christmas Party, etc.

Discussion Questions:

1. Share a "Mountain Top Moment" when you felt particularly "near to God" (e.g., on a retreat, in prayer, during worship).
2. God always desires to stay near to us. What are some of the things that prevent us from feeling close to Him everyday?
3. Read Mark 9:23-24
²³And Jesus said to him, "If you can! All things are possible for one who believes." ²⁴Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, "I believe; help my unbelief!"
How does the imperfect faith of the Father in Mark 9 encourage you?
4. What steps of obedience might God be calling you to take, even if your faith feels weak?
5. During the Christmas season what are the potential challenges (Ex. strained family relationships, consumerism, sadness of loved ones who have passed on, etc.) show up in your life?
6. Read this quote "Relying on God has to begin all over again every day as if nothing had yet been done." C.S. Lewis
In the business of the Christmas season how will you rely on Christ this season?

NOTE: Over the Christmas/New Years break we will also take a break from providing Small Group Discussion questions, they will resume in January 6, 2025.