



## Immanuel – Week 1

### Sermon Points:

Immanuel means – Im (with) manu (us) el (God)  
During the time of Isaiah — 740–680 BC  
Near threat of Assyria  
Far threat of Babylon  
In the Prophets, in the captivities, God was there.  
God is near  
Near where you are.  
Near who you are.

### 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. Read Isaiah 7:14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

The ancient world believed that gods were territorial, but Isaiah prophesied a God who would follow His people even into exile. What does this say about God's faithfulness, and how does it apply to us today?

2. We reviewed this week that God is transcendent. A simple way to define that is that *He is above all things*. Does that truth comfort or challenge you?
3. We also reviewed that God is immanent. A simple way to define that is that *He is near all things*. How does that comfort or challenge you?
4. In the birth of Jesus, Matthew remembered a quote from Isaiah. God called Himself Immanuel. A God who is with us. Do you tend to remember most often that God is high above all things, or do you tend to remember most often that God is near us in all things?
5. How does the concept of "God with us" shape how you approach the Christmas season? How can you bring this message to those around you?