

Christmas is...

LESSON 2 // THE GIFT OF GOD'S PRESENCE

Big Idea: Christmas is about Jesus coming into our world. One of the amazing things Jesus did in His coming was to bring God's presence into our lives in a way that changes us.

God's presence is powerful. It gives us companionship, guidance, comfort, favor and blessing. His presence wins battles for us, brings us joy and restores us. At Christmas, we celebrate Jesus as *Immanuel*—"God with us"—and the wonderful, life-changing presence of God He makes real in our lives.

Matthew 1:21-23 (NIV) *"She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").*

Start Talking:

What is one of your favorite Christmas carols or songs about Jesus? Why do you appreciate this song and how does it speak to you about the true meaning of Jesus' coming?

Start Thinking:

Read Psalm 23:4. In what ways does God's presence provide comfort in dark times?

Read Deuteronomy 20:4 and Romans 8:31. What do these verses tell you about the impact of God's presence in your spiritual battles?

Read Joshua 1:9 and Hebrews 13:5-6. How does the promise of God's presence give you hope and courage in your journey with the Lord?

Read Matthew 28:19-20 and John 14:15-20. How does God want to work thorough you by His presence and power?

Start Praying:

Pray that you will know in a more deeply personal way that *Immanuel* is with *you*—God's presence and power at work in your heart and life at Christmas and in the year ahead.

Start Doing:

Write a personal note of appreciation in this Christmas season to someone who needs encouragement. Let them know that you are thinking of them and God loves them. And share a short passage of Scripture that would give them hope about what Jesus has done for them (like Matthew 1:21-23, Luke 2:10-11 or John 3:16).