

LEAD SHEET

CHRISTMAS GOD IS WITH US DECEMBER 18, 2016

THIS MONTH'S FAITH SKILL: **PERSONALIZE SCRIPTURE**

If you want to know God better, memorize and apply His Word!

GETTING STARTED

General Discussion:

- What are some names of God that you've heard before?
- Do you know what these names mean?
- What is your favorite name for God?

DIGGING IN

The name of God that we are going to talk about today is "Immanuel" which in Hebrew means, "God is With Us." (*Also Emmanuel in Greek.*)

Read Isaiah 7:14

Discussion Questions:

1. Who will give the sign? (*The Lord.*)
2. Who will the sign come to? (*"You"—in the Hebrew this is plural, it is a sign for all.*)
3. What will the sign be? (*A woman will give birth to a son and His name will be Immanuel.*)

Read Matthew 1:23

Discussion Questions:

1. Matthew attributes what event to this prophecy from Isaiah? (*Jesus' birth.*)

2. Who is the virgin who gives birth? (*Mary.*)

3. Why didn't they name Jesus "Immanuel"? (*This is a tough question, and there may not be a definitive answer. However, the Bible considers Jesus to be Immanuel, God with us, because of this connection between Isaiah and Matthew.*)

Jesus is Immanuel. Jesus is God with us.

Christmas is all about Jesus, the Baby in the manger. But we should not forget that that Baby is God. Jesus is the name given to the Son of God in the flesh, but the Son of God always was. There was never a time when He was not.

Then, how could it be that God is with us?

Read Colossians 1:15-20

Discussion Questions:

1. The Son (Jesus) is what, according to verse 15? (*"The image of the invisible God and the firstborn over all creation."*)

2. Who was everything created by? (*Jesus.*)

3. Who holds everything together? (*Jesus.*)

4. Who is the Head of the Church? (*Jesus.*)

5. Who has supremacy over everything? (*Jesus.*)

All God's fullness was in Jesus. And Jesus' mission was to reconcile everything to God. He did this on the cross. But before the cross, He did it by being a little baby in a manger.

Read John 1:1-3

Discussion Questions:

1. Who is the Word in this text? (*Jesus.*)
2. Where was Jesus in the beginning? (*He was with God.*)
3. What was He doing?
(*Making everything that was made.*)

The Son of God, Jesus, God in the flesh, always was. But there's something more fascinating than that. God put skin on. That's what Christmas celebrates--God putting skin on. God is with us.

MAKING IT REAL

You may be wondering why all this matters in the first place. What does God being with us mean? What does it accomplish?

Here are four truths to hold to this Christmas.

1. YOU ARE NEVER ALONE

General Discussion:

- Do you like being alone? Why/why not?
- What is hard about being alone?
- How does it make you feel to know that God came to us and is with us still?

2. YOU HAVE A GUIDE

General Discussion:

- When was a time you got lost? What did you do?
- What are the benefits of depending on a guide?
- How can Jesus serve as a guide in your life?

3. YOU HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR

General Discussion:

- When you were a kid, what's something you were afraid of?

- What calmed your fears? How did you overcome them?
- How can God being with you make you less afraid in life?

4. YOU CAN BE SAVED

General Discussion:

- Why did God wrap Himself in skin in the first place?
(*So we could be saved.*)

- We often think of the cross and resurrection as how God saved us. How did He save us by coming to earth?

Knowing we are saved because God came to us is very different from what other faiths believe. Most religions think that to be saved we have to get to God somehow. Not true with Christianity. We can be saved because God came to us.

You are never alone, you have a guide, you have nothing to fear, and you can be saved. All of this is true because God is with us.

General Discussion:

- Which one of those do you need to be reminded of most right now in life?
- How can you allow Immanuel to change your thinking?
- How can you allow Immanuel into your life in a more significant way?

God is with us. Immanuel.

CLOSING PRAYER

Close in prayer with your students.