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“God With Us”
Matthew 1:18-25
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Familiarity can be the enemy of wonder.

Matthew 1:18-25

18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ[e] took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed[f] to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. 19 And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. 20 But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” 22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

23 “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall call his name Immanuel”

(which means, God with us). 24 When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, 25 but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

God has always desired and intended to be present with His people.

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 coming of Jesus at Christmas shows us just how determined God is to be with us.

John 1:14

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son[d] from the Father, full of grace and truth.

An awareness of God’s presence has the power to transform our lives.

Matthew 28:20

“And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Life Group Discussion Questions:

- 1) What did God say to you through the Scripture during our Sunday gathering?
- 2) What are some of your (and/or your family's) Christmas traditions? Why do you think we as people are drawn to traditions?
- 3) How can familiarity with the things of God make us numb to the awe and wonder we should feel towards Him? How have you experienced this in your life?
- 4) As you read the Bible, how do you see God's desire and even determination to be with His people? How does what we celebrate at Christmas relate to this?
- 5) How does it feel to consider the fact that Jesus became like us in every way? How often do you really think about this?
- 6) How aware would you say you are of God's presence with you on a typical day? How might you grow a greater awareness and what would that change?
- 7) How can your Life Group help you apply this passage to your life this week?