



Week One: "Do You Hear What I Hear?"

CONNECT

- What is your favorite Christmas Carol? Why?

WORD

Matthew 1:23

"The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel (which means "God with us")."

THOUGHT

When Immanuel arrives — when the Day-spring rises — we learn that redemption has only begun. To be sure, it is a magnificent only. The final blood is shed. The debt is paid. Forgiveness is purchased. God's wrath is removed. Adoption is secured. The down-payment is in the bank. The first-fruits of harvest are in the barn. The future is sure. The joy is great. But the end is not yet. Death still snatches away. Disease still makes us miserable. Calamity still strikes. Satan still prowls. Flesh still wars against the Spirit. Sin still indwells. And we still "groan, awaiting our adoption, the redemption of our bodies" ([Romans 8:23](#)). We still "wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ" ([1 Corinthians 1:7](#)). We still wait for final "deliverance from the wrath to come" ([1 Thessalonians 1:10](#)). We still "wait for the hope of righteousness" ([Galatians 5:5](#)). The longing continues.

DISCUSSION

1. The Christian life oscillates between these two poles — the overflowing joy of the "already" redeemed ([Ephesians 1:7](#)). What does this mean to you?
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2. The second pole, the tearful yearning of the “not-yet” redeemed (Ephesians 4:30). What does this mean to you?

3. Not that we ever leave the one or the other in this life. We are always “sorrowful yet rejoicing.” (2 Corinthians 6:10) What do you think this means?

4. Do you think that we have to live in this duality of hope in the midst of turmoil forever? Or do you find there is a promise for us found in Matthew 1:23?

5. In Matthew 1:23, it shares that Jesus will be called Immanuel, which translates to God with us. What does this mean for us living in a time awaiting His return?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

- This week, spend time learning about the name Immanuel and uncover what significance it holds for you in this season.
- This week make action steps to see the hope, and the return of Jesus in areas of your life, our world that otherwise would be hopeless without Him.

PRAYER

- Pray this week asking God to remind you of the importance of Christ being born among mankind as we begin to set into the Christmas season.
- This week, as you experience the ups and downs that come with life, pray that God can give you the ability to put your hope in Jesus. As this season progress, ask that the feeling of Christ birth would holdfast to your heart.