

Small Group Study Guide



O Come, O Come, Emmanuel **Dec 22, 2019**

OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank you for preserving this ancient carol for us and its wonderful message. I thank you that you are here and that you are the God who comes alongside of us to comfort us in our trials. Lord, fill us with your peace and joy as we study your Word. We pray this in the matchless and powerful name of Jesus. Amen.

SCRIPTURE:

Matthew 1:18-25 New International Version (NIV)

18 This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. 19 Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. 20 But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 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.” 22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 23 “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”). 24 When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. 25 But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.



INTRODUCTION

One of the oldest and most loved Christmas carols of all time is “O Come, O Come Emmanuel. It’s a carol whose author remains unknown but it was probably a monk or priest who penned the words before 800 A.D. The song owes its worldwide acceptance to an Anglican priest named John Mason Neale. Neal translated the carol into English and it was first published in the 1850’s in England. The carol has a wonderful history, but what does this ancient hymn tell us about God?

“*O Come O Come Emmanuel.*” Emmanuel means: God with us. God is with you, God was with you, God will be with you. And that’s the best news ever. But does that make a difference in our lives? Are we living our lives like God is with us? No question that God is with you. Real question: Are you with God?

QUESTIONS

- 1) What is your favorite Christmas tradition?
- 2) In what ways have you experienced God being with you?
- 3) What difficult circumstances are you facing that you need God to be with you right now?
- 4) What steps do you need to take to experience more of God?
- 5) What are some ways you can embody Emmanuel (God with us) for others this Christmas?

FINAL APPLICATION

This week, prayerfully consider how your life has been affected by believing that Jesus is Emmanuel (God with us)?