



## AS 1 COMMUNITY GROUPS: Winter Sessions 2015

### Immanuel - "God with us" (Christmas #1)

#### **Matthew 1:23-25**

*[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.*

#### **Psalms 23:4**

*Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.*

#### **Hebrews 4:15**

*[15] For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.*

#### **2 Corinthians 3:18**

*And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another.*

#### **Discussion Questions:** (Take turns reading and answering these questions)

1. What stood out to you from the scripture verses you just read? Why?
2. Share about the time when you truly appreciated someone being with you. What made you glad that person was with you?
3. What "price" do you think Mary and Joseph paid as a result of having Jesus with them? Is there cost involved with God being with us? (What cost was there to God to be with us?)
4. Referring to Hebrews 4:15, how does it help us to know that Jesus sympathizes with us? Have you experienced it?
5. According to 2 Cor. 3:18, how do we change to become like Christ? In what practical ways can we "behold the glory of the Lord?"
6. What implication is there for God to choose to be with us? Can you come up with an analogy (a similar story) to stir your heart?

#### **Depending On Christ**

Christ came to be with us at an enormous cost to Him. We can derive from this His being with us is of utmost importance to Him and thus to us. This should reorder our priorities. We do not stay with Him to get things done, but we get things done so that we can be with Him.