



WEEKLY CELL GUIDE

19 DEC 2021 | IMMANUEL, GOD WITH US | MATTHEW 1:21-23

Series: With You This Christmas | **Speaker:** Pastor Joachim Tan



WELCOME

[15 MINS]

You may want to look up the following websites for icebreakers suitable for your cell.

[Ice Breakers 1](#)

[Ice Breakers 2](#)



WORSHIP

[15 MINS]

You may select songs like

1. Joy to the World
 2. Jesus Messiah
-



WORD

[45 MINS]

SPIRITUAL OBJECTIVES

At the end of the sermon discussion, cell members will:

1. Be reminded of the meaning of Immanuel, God with us
2. Be reminded of the importance of reaching the lost and committing it to Him in prayer.

SERMON SUMMARY

Jesus is Immanuel, God with us. The significance of His name tells us three important things

- 1) God is near us ([Isaiah 41:10a](#), [Deuteronomy 31:8](#)),
- 2) We are never alone ([Matthew 1:23](#), [Psalm 23:4](#)) and
- 3) We receive the divine involvement of His presence.

SERMON RECAP

A promise was given to God's people when Jesus was born. It was given to us in the book of Isaiah and was fulfilled at the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Pastor Joachim shared about three pointers on the significance of "Immanuel, God with us".

1. God is Near Us

"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God.." – Isaiah 41:10a

"The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged." – Deuteronomy 31:8

- We worship a God who is close and near us
- As Christians, we may feel distant from Him at times. However, we can take comfort that He is closer to us than we think or believe.

2. We are Never Alone

"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God." – Matthew 1:23

"Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me." – Psalm 23:4

- We often feel alone in times of difficulties and this was made worse by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- There are also times where we isolate from others because we feel alone and ashamed.
- In spite of all this, we can take comfort in the good news of Christmas – God is with us through every illness and disease, difficult circumstances, pain and when we feel lonely.

3. We Receive the Divine Involvement of His Presence

- When God is with us, there is a natural manifestation of His presence in our lives.
- Pastor Joachim provided different examples:
 - Daniel in the Lions' Den ([Daniel 6](#))
 - The fiery furnace ([Daniel 3](#))
 - King Hezekiah ([2 Kings 18:7](#))

Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever." – Psalm 23:6

- As a church, we can be encouraged knowing that God's presence is tangible and real in our circumstances.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **Pastor Joachim spoke about the three important truths about Immanuel, God with us. Share with the cell a pointer that spoke to you for this season of your life. [10 Mins]**

Leader's Notes

This is a recap and reflect question for members to share which pointer is especially relevant for them this season. If leaders wish, they can also ask members to share about times where they were reminded of how this name "Immanuel" was tangibly experienced in their lives, for members to give thanks to God and for other members in the cell to be encouraged about His goodness. If there are newcomers, this can be a time for testimony as well.

Transition

As we have received the blessing of communion with Him, may we also step out in faith to share this gift with those who have yet to receive Him.

2. **Through Pastor Joachim's preaching and the testimony, we hear about how God has been faithful in the good and bad times. Share with the cell a Bible story or verse you hold on to when you are in the midst of struggle and waiting upon God for deliverance. [15 Mins]**

Leader's Notes

This is a recap and reflect question for the cell to share with each other some verses or characteristics of God they hold on to, to encourage one another. Leaders may also choose to ask members to share the context of how that verse / characteristic spoke to them.

Transition

We can take comfort in knowing that while there is suffering in a fallen world, God will never leave us nor forsake us. He came for us and to mould us into Christlikeness for His glory.

3. **God is with us and He has called us to be His witnesses to those who have yet to know Him. Share with the cell about a pre-believer you are reaching out to and to commit them to God in prayer. [15 Mins]**

Leader's Notes

This is a response question for the cell to consider and commit to prayer those in their circles who have yet to know Him. If leaders wish, they can also ask the cell to consider looking out for believers who may not be growing in a faith community yet, and to reach out to them as well. Leaders can ask members to pray in small groups for closing.

Closing

God assures us that Jesus is with us and to walk in His power, love and provision. As we continue to approach Christmas, may we continually be mindful of these truths and be reliant on Him to live Spirit-filled lives.



Consider dividing the group into micro-groups for a deeper time of sharing as well as praying for the following items:

1. **Sermon Application**

- We will remember that our God is a good God that wants the best for us. Therefore, we need not fear of giving our "Yesses" to Him.

- God will show us the areas of our lives that need to be surrendered once again to Him.

2. COVID-19 in Singapore

- Praise God for the decrease in community cases.
- Pray for God's protection especially from the Omicron variant.

3. COVID-19 in the World

- A swift end to the COVID-19 crisis globally, if not a reduction in cases in third world nations, and a stable environment where humans and virus coexist.
- Healing and comfort for those who are sick and suffering.
- Protection and guidance for healthcare professionals at the frontline, giving them wisdom, courage, and strength to confront this crisis.

4. Opportunities for Outreach

- Ask the Lord to grant you opportunities to reach out to a non-believing loved one, friend, or colleague this week as we seek to mature in Christlikeness.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

[5 MINS]

1. **Resumption of 11am Service.** Our 11am service is resumed last Sunday, 19 Dec to allow more RiverLifers to return to church for worship. Let's free up our car park lots for guests and visitors, our elderly and parents with young children. *If you can, do park your vehicles outside of the vicinity.* Our back gate will be opened for the convenience of those who park outside of church.
2. **Prayer Ministry.** If you require prayer ministry for any issues you face (eg. unforgiveness, demonic oppression, etc), you can sign up for RLC's RTF ministry: <https://bit.ly/rlcrtf>
3. **Bible Reading Plan.** You can access our 2-Year Bible Reading Plan 2021-2022 by visiting: <https://rlc.sg/brp2021>.

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