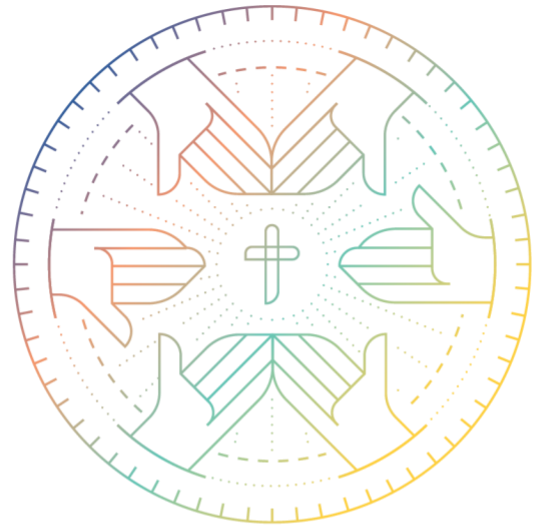


Group Life.

WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER



ICEBREAKER (10 MINUTES)

Share a moment from your life when you felt wonderfully close to God—maybe a place, an experience, or a difficulty. Don't worry if you've never had that experience. God is still at work in your life!

INTRODUCTION (5-10 MINUTES)

What stands out to you from Pastor David's message?

The Christmas story reveals how deeply God desires to be with us. In Matthew 1:18-25, we see Joseph's initial shock and confusion upon learning about Mary's pregnancy, yet his obedience to God shows trust in the promise of "Immanuel" – God with us. This lesson reminds us that God's presence is not just something to experience. Rather, it's a relationship to treasure.

INTO THE WORD (15 MINUTES)

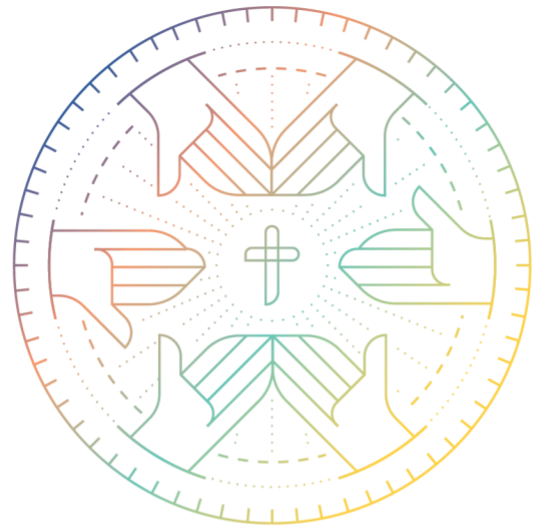
Read Isaiah 7:14 and Matthew 1:18-25. The angel's message to Joseph directly refers to Isaiah's prophecy and the historical setting at that time. The Israelites, through Judah, experienced both national victory and a profound experience of God's presence with them. How does understanding this connection deepen your appreciation of the Christmas story and God's faithfulness to fulfill all His promises?

Read Psalm 46:1-3. This passage emphasizes that God is "our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." How does the promise of "Immanuel" relate to God's presence in our struggles and fears today?

Read John 14:16-17. Jesus promises the Holy Spirit to dwell with and within us. How does this fulfillment of "God with us" influence the way you approach challenges and moments of uncertainty in your life?

Group Life.

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APPLICATION (15 MINUTES)

Draw Near to Him: Reflect on what might be keeping you from fully drawing near to God in this Christmas season. Is it fear, doubt, busyness, or something else? Identify one step you can take this week to remove that barrier and prioritize time with God. Share one of those ideas with your group.

Live Out His Presence: Consider how you can embody “God with us” to others this Christmas season. This might include acts of kindness, offering forgiveness, or sharing the message of hope with someone in need, in order to make God known. Be open and aware each day as you go through it- God can use you in ways you did not anticipate.

PRAYER (10 MINUTES)

Heavenly Father, thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus, to be our “Immanuel,” God with us. We are in awe of Your love and the lengths You’ve gone to make Yourself known to us. Help us to draw near to You, laying aside our fears and distractions. Teach us to live in Your presence daily and to reflect Your love to those around us. May this Christmas season deepen our relationship with You and bring us closer to the peace only You can give. In Jesus’ name, we pray, Amen.

Please remember to take attendance for your Group!