

WEEK 3 IMMANUEL: GOD WITH US

BIBLE STUDY

1. The familiar characters in our Nativity scenes were real people, a lot like us. In what ways might you relate to Mary, Joseph, Zechariah, or Elizabeth?

2. Step into the stories of Zechariah, Elizabeth, Joseph, and Mary. What might they have wondered as the events leading up to Jesus' birth took place? What would you have thought or felt if you were in their place?

3. Read **Luke 1:5-38**. Compare the experiences of Zechariah and Mary. What similarities and differences do you see in their stories? In their responses to God? How are these similarities or differences significant?

4. Read **Luke 1:46-55, 67-79**. What do Mary's and Zechariah's songs reveal about God? About his plan of salvation? About the hope we can find in him?

5. Read **Luke 2:1-7**. Catherine McNiel points out the significance of the details Luke includes, saying, "Jesus is born into history . . . The true God came near to us physically, tangibly, in a way that we can see with our eyes and touch with our hands." How do these details underscore the nature of God's love for us and our reason to hope in him?

6. How do you experience God's presence with you in your life? How do you desire to grow in intimacy with Immanuel?

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Luke 1:31-33