

# Immanuel

*“Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means ‘God is with us.’”*

*Matthew 1:23*

Immanuel—God with us— what an amazing thought!

From the very beginning we were created for relationship. God walked and talked in the Garden with humankind. But our relationship with God was severed by sin and from that point on we have been trying to find something or someone to replace that which was lost. Often we use people to try and fill the void, friends and family who will never be enough for us. Some search for pleasure, experiences and material possessions, while others fall into harmful addictions in their search. Yet nothing can heal and satisfy or give us the lasting joy and love that we so long for. Nothing can take the place of God.

Immanuel—God with us—what an extraordinary solution!

In spite of our rebellion, God had a plan to fix our broken relationship, to bring us back to Him. He sent Jesus to rescue us. God in human form would live here on earth with us. He would come as a helpless baby and grow and experience everything we earthlings go through- all without sinning. Eventually He would sacrifice himself to pay for the sin that separated us from God. *We* were responsible for breaking the relationship, but he himself would pay the price it cost to restore that relationship. We were wounded, wandering in darkness, not even aware of what we had lost, but always knowing that something was gone because we kept searching for it. And God came.

Immanuel—God with us—what an indescribable gift!

We often long for Jesus to be right beside us in bodily form. We want to see Him, to reach out and touch Him, to have Him quiet us with His love. But then we are reminded of Jesus’ words to His followers, that He would not leave us as orphans, but

would give us the gift of the Holy Spirit who would actually live in us and be with us forever (John 14:16-18). This is why we are not alone. God's Spirit will actually live inside us if we will give him our lives.

Immanuel—God with us— what an astonishing reality!

And now...

In our deepest sorrows— we are not alone. God is with us.

In our highest joys—we are not alone. God is with us.

In our unspoken longings—we are not alone. God is with us.

In our frustrations, failures and fear—we are not alone. God is with us.

In our struggles and conflicts—we are not alone. God is with us.

In our failing health—we are not alone. God is with us.

In our insecurity and weakness—we are not alone. God is with us.

-Holli Worthington, December 2008