



## Christmas Presence

**Acts 2:26 (MSG)** *I've pitched my tent in the land of hope.*

- We will pitch our tent on HOPE, JOY, PEACE and LOVE for the next four weeks.

**Matthew 1:18-23 (NIV)**<sup>18</sup> *This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit.<sup>19</sup> Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.<sup>20</sup> But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.<sup>21</sup> She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."<sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet:<sup>23</sup> "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him immanuel" (which means "God with us").*

### God WITH us and FOR us...

**Isaiah 55:9 (NIV)** *"As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."*

**John 1:14 (MSG)** *The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood.*

### God IN us...

**Ephesians 3:20 (NIV)** *Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us.*

**John 16:7 (NIV)** *But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.*

God is not just saying, "I want to be with you." He is saying, "I want to be with you forever. I can't imagine eternity without you."

### Additional Notes...

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### scriptures that relate

Monday: Matthew 1

Wednesday: Matthew 3

Friday: Matthew 5

Tuesday: Matthew 2

Thursday: Matthew 4

Saturday: Matthew 6

### small groups—talk it over

1. What is your favorite tradition at Christmas?
2. In the Christmas story who intrigues you the most?
3. What does "God with us" mean to you?
4. Are you aware of God's presence on a daily basis?
5. Name a time that God being with you was very noticeable.

### jeff alexander's prayer requests

**Monday:** Pray that, as the Christmas season approaches, we will keep our eyes on our Savior.

**Tuesday:** Pray for our mission work as we share the Gospel and help others with gifts and meals.

**Wednesday:** Pray for our youth and children that their love for the Lord will grow.

**Thursday:** Pray for our small groups as we transition from *Transformed* to regular meetings.

**Friday:** Pray for those with special needs that our new ministry will be a blessing to them.

**Saturday:** Pray for the lost, broken and unchurched to be brought into a relationship with the Lord.