



Family Devotional: The Shepherds, the Magi & the King

Theme: Jesus is Emmanuel, God with us. From Genesis to Revelation, God's greatest desire has always been to be near His people.

Focus Verse:

"The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call Him Immanuel" (which means 'God with us'). — Matthew 1:23

Other Scriptures:

- John 1:1–14
- Revelation 21:1–3

Devotional Thought:

From the very beginning of the Bible, God has been drawing near to His people. He walked with Adam and Eve in the Garden. He spoke through the prophets. He guided His people through wilderness and war, blessing and hardship. He promised a Savior, a King who would rescue and restore.

And then, in the quiet town of Bethlehem, God Himself stepped into our world.

Not as a distant ruler... but as Emmanuel — God with us.

Jesus came so we could know God's heart, see His love, and walk with Him in our everyday lives. And the story doesn't stop there. Scripture ends with another promise: that one day, God will dwell with His people forever.

This is the story of Christmas.

This is the story of the Bible.

This is the story of God, a God who comes close.

Scripture Focus:

Matthew 1:18–23 (NIV)

18 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. 19 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. 20 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.



21 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.” 22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 23 “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call Him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).

John 1:1–5, 14 (NKJV)

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. 4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5 And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. 14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

Revelation 21:1–3 (NIV)

1 Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. 2 I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and He will dwell with them. They will be His people, and God Himself will be with them and be their God.”

Talk About It (Family Discussion Questions):

1. When you hear the name “Emmanuel, God with us,” what do you think it means?
2. Where have you seen God’s presence in your life this year? (Think about moments of comfort, help, blessings, or answered prayers.)
3. Why do you think God chose to come as a baby instead of a mighty king?
4. What does it mean to you that God wants to be close to His people?
5. How can we remember that God is with us even when life feels hard or confusing?

Weekly Challenge:

Light a candle together as a family. Then go around and share one way you’ve seen God’s presence in your life this year, big or small. After everyone shares, close by thanking God for being with your family in every season.

Family Prayer:

Father, thank You for being Emmanuel, God with us. Thank You for sending Jesus to show us Your love, Your heart, and Your desire to be close. Help us recognize Your presence in our everyday lives, in our joy, our challenges, and our quiet moments. As we close out this year, remind us that You walk with us into the next. Fill our home with Your peace and Your hope. We love You, and we thank You for never leaving us. In Jesus’ name, Amen.