



An **EMOTIONAL**
Christmas



A Lonely
CHRISTMAS

Week 2
Devotional №2

Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called “uncircumcised” by those who call themselves “the circumcision” (which is done in the body by human hands)— remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God’s people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.
– Ephesians 2:11-22

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”). – Matthew 1:23

In the beginning, God created the world perfectly, and He created people to have a perfect relationship with Him. Everything was amazing, and Adam and Eve had an intimate relationship with their Creator, unhindered by anything. That is, until they

chose to take their own way instead of God's way and earned the dreadful punishment of being separated from God, both physically and spiritually. The perfect relationship they had with their Creator was shattered, causing them to be cast out and alone.

The result of Adam and Eve's sin is that all of humanity has been separated from God. We were designed to be in relationship, but now have been cast away and isolated by our own doing. When we look around at the world, we can see that it is truly far from God. Ever since Adam and Eve were kicked out of the garden, pain, suffering and loneliness have been the norm for most of humanity. This loneliness also makes its way into our personal lives. Many of us have had seasons in our lives where we felt alone, like there was no one around to turn to or to support us (I know I have). This loneliness is often painful, and, for many caught in the midst of this, it seems like there is no hope in sight. So, what is the remedy?

God, desiring a restored relationship with His creation, came to earth, took on flesh, and lived a perfect, human life. Jesus left His throne in heaven to come live a life of poverty and servanthood in order to reconcile us with Himself. He became "Immanuel," God living with us. This life culminated in His willing death on the cross, by which He reconciled us with God. When Jesus died, everything that separates us from God died too, for those that believe in Him.

Because Jesus came to be with us as Immanuel, humanity no longer needs to be isolated from God, stuck in loneliness. Through Jesus's finished work on the cross, we can have peace with God, and know that no matter what is going on in life around us, God is with us. We have a place where we belong with a God who loves us deeply.

DISCUSS

- If you look at the world around you, what are things that show that the world is far from God?
- Think of a time that you felt lonely. What was going on, and what made you feel that way?
- Why do you think God would want to reconcile with a world that rejected Him?
- How does it feel to know that you are, through the blood of Jesus, part of a new community?

PRAYER AND PRAISE

- As a family, thank God for making a way for us to be brought back into a right relationship with Him through Jesus.
- Spend time praying for those that need the hope and peace of God, both for people you know and for people throughout the world.

- Sing “Oh Come, Oh Come Emmanuel” together as a family, and look up the meaning of any phrases that you are unfamiliar with.

ACTION

- As a family, write some Christmas cards to your neighbors to let them know that God loves them.