

Matthew 1:18–25 — “...and they shall call His name Immanuel,”
which is translated, **God with us.**

Today’s Focus: “God with Us”

This Christmas season, we begin a brand-new series: **Christmas at the Movies.**
Today’s message reminds us that even in seasons of loneliness, transition, or
feeling left out... **God is with us.**

The Reality of Loneliness

The Christmas season amplifies loneliness more than any time of year:

- People feel isolated, forgotten, or overwhelmed.
- Many silently struggle even while surrounded by others.
- Loneliness grows when we are **left out, pushed out**, or even when we **push others out.**

Even Joseph and Mary faced moments of fear, confusion, and isolation.
But in their most vulnerable moment, **God sent a word** — reassuring them that
the promise was still alive.

Movie Connection: Home Alone

Kevin’s story mirrors our emotional reality:

- Left behind.
- Misunderstood.
- Pushed aside.
- Trying to handle life alone.

But Kevin discovers what we must also rediscover:
Isolation distorts reality — but connection restores hope.

Three Truths from Today’s Message

1. Left Out, Pushed Out, Counted Out

Loneliness often begins when:

- Others overlook us.
- We feel replaced or forgotten.
- Life moves fast, and we feel invisible.

Joseph almost pushed Mary away — not out of anger, but fear.

Yet God broke through the isolation with a fresh word:

“Do not be afraid... this is the Holy Spirit’s work.”

2. Left Out, Pushing Everyone Out

When hurt isn’t healed, it becomes a wall.

- We shut down emotionally.
- We blame others.
- We withdraw from the very relationships God wants to use to strengthen us.



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Scripture reminds us:

"Consider one another... to provoke unto love and good works." — Hebrews
10:24

We need people.
We need community.
We need the church.

3. Left Out — The Reality Sets In

In *Home Alone*, the enemy was already inside the house while the family was distracted. In our lives, the enemy uses loneliness the same way—
to distort truth, weaken faith, and isolate us from God's plan.

But God steps in.

Just like the "Old Man" in the movie who ultimately rescues Kevin—

God steps in when we've fought all we can fight.

And what once scared us becomes the very voice that brings peace.

The Promise of Christmas: Immanuel

No matter what you face this Christmas...

You are not alone.

- When life feels hopeless — *God with us.*
- When family is distant — *God with us.*
- When you feel abandoned — *God with us.*

Restoration Begins with Relationship

When Kevin received help, his relationships were restored—first with his mother, then with the rest of the family.

The same is true spiritually:

- God restores us to Himself.
- God restores family and friendships.
- God restores us to His church — His family.

Final Encouragement

This Christmas doesn't have to be lonely.
It doesn't have to be heavy, empty, or isolated.

Because the promise of God is still true:

IMMANUEL — GOD WITH US.

