



## **Week 2- “What About Now”**

**In this week’s message, we look at the promise Christmas offers us that allows us to live in this broken world with peace, joy, and rest.**

1. In what ways do you look to God for help when things seem out of your control? Is it hard for you to sense God’s presence in the middle of difficult circumstances?

### **Read Matthew 1:18-23**

2. The promise of Christmas is “God with us,” a promise we can rest in no matter what we are walking through. How would truly living in that promise help you walk through difficult circumstances?

**In Genesis 37:14-28, 39:1-21 we find part of the story of Joseph who was sold into slavery by his brothers and experienced injustice, harshness, false accusations, and prison. Yet even with all of this, he rested in the truth that God was with him.**

3. How does Joseph’s story change the way you see “God with us?” Do you tend to think that “God with us” means everything in your life turns out great and easy?

4. What do you think it takes to find strength and peace to be who God calls you to be in the middle of mess and circumstances out of your control?

5. How can we let “God with us” define us instead of the circumstances in our life that are messy and broken define us?

*“And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever the spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him, But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.” John 14:16-17*

*“You too heard the word of truth in Christ, which is the good news of your salvation. You were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit because you believed in Christ. The Holy Spirit is the down payment on our inheritance, which is applied toward our redemption as God’s own people.” Ephesians 1:13-14*

*“His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.” 2 Peter 1:3*

6. While we are living in this broken world we have the gift of the Holy Spirit to help us live with peace and joy. How does this truth help you know that you are not alone as you live out your daily life?

7. As we reflect on the Christmas story in light of our current circumstances let’s ask ourselves:

- Am I living with the reality of the hope of eternity?
- Am I living with the reality of God with me?

**God entered this world to give us hope that one day it won’t be broken anymore. If we place our trust in Christ we can experience an eternal life of peace, joy, and rest. But Christmas doesn’t just give us the hope of eternity, it gives us the promise of God with us, right where we are.**