

# ADVENT

PROMISE AND FULFILLMENT

## DISCUSSION GUIDE

*Week of December 8, 2019*

**Sermon:** Presence

**Text:** Zechariah 2:1-13

### SUMMARY

God has promised his people that there will be a day where he will dwell in their midst in a new way, with a personal and protective presence. In the incarnation of Jesus Christ, we find that Jesus is both the promise and the fulfillment of God's presence with his people.

### FOR FAMILIES

Why do we celebrate Christmas? Do you know what "Emmanuel" means?

Have you ever felt alone or abandoned, maybe by your parents or someone else you trust? What might it feel like to feel abandoned by God?

Who protects you? Is it your parents? Your big house? Your guard dog? How does God protect his people?

Talk about the concept of incarnation with your parents. Think about how Jesus was just a baby, and yet was still God. Why would God send Jesus in this way? Is that comforting to us when we feel alone?

### FOR GROUPS

Confess different times or ways in which you have felt abandoned or distant from God. Why is it that we often feel as if he is not near?

How is your expectation of God's work "short-sighted"? How might you draw your expectations of God from man and not from God? If it was up to you, what plan would you lay out for your life or for your redemption?

Is it encouraging to consider God's protection for his people? How so? In what ways can you reflect and see his protection of you this week?

How is God's protective presence different than that of a full bank account, a secure job, or a strong government? Do you feel like you are the "apple of God's eye"?

In the incarnation of Jesus we see the promise of the presence of God fulfilled, a truth that is of immense value. How do you tend to undervalue or forget the glory of the incarnation?

How can you "get out of Babylon" and pursue intimacy with God this week?

Spend some time as a group in prayer, thanking God for the presence of Emmanuel. Sing a song of rejoicing together, like Joy to the World or Hark the Herald Angels Sing.