

# Small Group Guide: Emmanuel - Mission Possible

## Series: Emmanuel (God With Us)

**Sermon Title:** Mission Possible: The Reason He Appeared

**Main Text:** 1 John 3:8

## Opening Prayer & Icebreaker (10 minutes)

### **Icebreaker Question:**

Share a favorite Christmas tradition from your childhood or family. What made it special, and what anticipation or excitement did it create?

## Key Scripture (5 minutes)

**1 John 3:8** - "The Son of God appeared for this purpose: to destroy the works of the devil."

Read this verse aloud together. What stands out to you immediately about this statement?

## Main Takeaways from the Sermon

1. **Jesus came with a specific mission:** To destroy the works of the devil
2. **Jesus came to reveal the Father** - showing us who God truly is
3. **Jesus came to rescue sinners** - providing salvation we couldn't earn

4. **Jesus came to reverse the curse and defeat evil** - breaking Satan's power through the cross

## Discussion Questions

### Part 1: Understanding the Enemy's Works (15 minutes)

**1. The sermon identified several "works of the devil" that Jesus came to destroy:**

- Sin and practicing sin
- Deception and lies
- Accusations and condemnation
- Sickness and oppression
- Idolatry and false worship
- Bondage and demonic influence

Which of these do you see most prevalent in our culture today? Which do you personally struggle with most?

**2. Read Genesis 3:1-7.** How did sin "enter" the world through one man? What was the devil's strategy with Eve, and how does he still use similar tactics today?

**3. The pastor mentioned that the devil accuses us "day and night" before God (Revelation 12:10).** How does guilt and condemnation affect our relationship with God and our effectiveness as Christians?

### Part 2: Jesus Reveals the Father (15 minutes)

**4. Read John 14:9 and Colossians 1:15.** Why was it necessary for Jesus to come in human form to reveal the Father? What misconceptions about God does Jesus correct?

**5. The sermon stated: "We've been running and hiding from God ever since" the fall.** In what ways do people (or even Christians) still hide from God today? What causes us to run from Him rather than to Him?

**\*\*6.** How does understanding God as revealed in Jesus change the way you approach Him in prayer, confession, or daily life?

### **Part 3: Rescuing Sinners (15 minutes)**

**7. Read Luke 19:10 and 1 Timothy 1:15.** The Apostle Paul called himself the "chief of sinners." Why is it important for us to maintain this perspective about ourselves even after we're saved?

**8. The sermon shared a story about a new believer struggling with guilt over falling back into sin.** How would you encourage someone in your group who is experiencing similar struggles? What truths from this sermon would you share?

**9. Read Matthew 1:21.** Jesus' name literally means "the Lord saves." How does knowing that salvation is entirely God's work (not ours) free us to serve others?

### **Part 4: Reversing the Curse (15 minutes)**

**10. Read Genesis 3:15 - the "proto-evangelium" (first gospel prophecy).** How does this verse, spoken immediately after the fall, demonstrate God's plan was always in place? What hope does this give you about God's sovereignty in your life?

**11. The sermon emphasized that Jesus "rendered the devil powerless" through His death (Hebrews 2:14-15).** If the devil is defeated, why do we still struggle with temptation and spiritual warfare? How should we respond differently knowing his power is broken?

**12. Read Ephesians 2:1-8.** What does it mean that we are "seated with Him in the heavenly places"? How should this positional truth affect our daily walk?

## Practical Application (15 minutes)

### Personal Reflection:

**1. Christmas Anticipation:** The sermon challenged us to have childlike anticipation about what Jesus will do this Christmas season. What specific thing are you praying God will do in your life, family, or community this Christmas?

**2. The Gift Analogy:** The sermon compared salvation to an unopened gift under the tree. Who in your life needs to "open the gift" of salvation? Write down 2-3 names and commit to praying for them daily through Christmas.

**3. Living in Freedom:** Which "work of the devil" do you most need to experience freedom from? (condemnation, deception, fear, etc.) What specific step will you take this week to stand in the freedom Christ purchased for you?

## Group Challenge for This Week

### Share the Light:

- **Invite:** Each person commits to inviting at least one person to church during the Christmas season
- **Pray:** Create a group text chain to share prayer requests for unsaved friends/family members
- **Serve:** Identify one practical way your group can serve together this Christmas season to demonstrate Christ's love

## Closing Reflection (5 minutes)

**Read together:** "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God" (Ephesians 2:8)

**Final Question:** How has this study changed or deepened your understanding of why Jesus came at Christmas?

## **Closing Prayer**

Pray together:

- Thank God for sending Jesus with a specific mission to destroy the devil's works
- Ask God to give you childlike anticipation and excitement about what He'll do this Christmas
- Pray for the specific people you've identified who need to receive Christ
- Ask for boldness to share your story and invite others to encounter Jesus

## **For Further Study**

- Read the Christmas narrative in Luke 2:1-20 and Matthew 1:18-25
- Study the "I AM" statements of Jesus in the Gospel of John to see how He reveals the Father
- Memorize 1 John 3:8 as a reminder of Christ's mission