

Real Gospel for the Real World

December 19, 2021

Scriptures: Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:21-23; Revelation 21:3-4; Luke 4:16-21;
Philippians 3:20-21

Bottom Line: God is with us

The History of O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

- Written in the 8th or 9th Century, around 1200 years ago
- Monks would sing one verse/day leading up to Christmas to prepare their hearts and minds for Christmas
- Jesus is called Emmanuel, Rod of Jesse, Dayspring from on High, Key of David, Lord of Might, Wisdom, and King of peoples.

God With Us

- Creation began with God being with us, but we separated ourselves from Him
- Jesus was the climax of God's attempts to be with His people. He came to us physically, fulfilling the prophecies of the Old Testament, and made a way for God to be with us again (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:21-23)
- In the last chapters of the Bible, God's home is with His people (Rev. 21:3-4)

Exiles Then and Now

- Despite returning from Babylon, Israel was still in spiritual exile: ruled by other nations, far from God's presence, waiting for the Messiah
- All of humanity are still exiles from God's presence and from what creation was intended to be. We all need the Messiah
- The coming of Jesus means an end to our exile, if we turn to Jesus and accept His Kingdom

LISTENING

Have someone in your group share something about their week. They could answer one or more of the following questions:

- What was a big challenge or problem you faced this week? How did you handle it?
- Where did you experience God this week? Or where do you wish you had experienced God this week?
- Based on your life experience this week, what do you think God is trying to teach you right now? What is He trying to build in you?

After the person shares, the group can respond. Make sure you let them know you heard them: tell them what you heard, offer wise advice where it's asked for, share from your own experience as well.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Review Sunday's message. What stood out to you? What challenged you? Are there any lingering questions?
2. Spend a few minutes looking up the words to the various verses of "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel." Which words stand out to you? Does anything stand out about the music?
3. Where do you need to experience the freedom of Christ in your own life?
4. When have you experienced God with you?