

"EMMANUEL, GOD WITH US" (Jan, Feb 2022)

At the start of a new year, we look at the wonderful truth that God is always with us and how we can be aware of this in all life's challenges

PART 1 (ws 10.01.22)

In the first 2 Sundays of the year, we have heard strong messages from Tony Anderson and Paul, looking at different aspects of "Emmanuel, God with us" which we can explore below

1. Isaiah 7v14 His "Emmanuel" presence was prophesied 700 years before he came. How does that encourage you?
2. Read John 14v15-23: How much does this say about his intimate presence with us and in us?
3. Read Col 1v27 and Josh 1v8,9: Share how these verses encourage you that he is with us
4. Read Luke 24v13-35 and see the effect of Jesus walking with his disciples, even when they didn't recognise him
5. Read Revelation 21v1-4 to see Jesus' heart to be with us for all of eternity.

PART 2 (from Sunday 30/1/22): Mountainsides and storms

This is taken from John 6v1-24, which takes in "Emmanuel, God with his disciples." it looks at what happened in just one day and how Jesus showed his "Emmanuel presence" in two distinct ways, both of which we can experience in our walk with him.

1. Before the miracle of the feeding of the 5,000 we read that "Jesus went up a mountainside and sat with his disciples" (v3). This was before they did anything that day and gave Jesus a chance to minister his love, his peace, his strength, his direction into the disciples' lives.
SHARE: As a disciple, where is your mountainside, the place you go to meet with Jesus? When is your mountainside time? How to you "do" this time? What can you share about your mountainside to help others?
2. After the feeding of the 5,000 the disciples got caught in a storm. "Jesus approached the boat, walking on the water" v19. he brought his Emmanuel, God with us presence into that storm. he spoke words of calm (v20). As they took him into their boat their situation changed.
SHARE: We all find ourselves in storms. Share times when you have called out to Jesus in your storm and the difference he has made

PART 3: Life's essentials

This week we look at three truths Jesus taught the people, which underline that Jesus is *not* some sort of add on extra, but that his "Emmanuel God with us presence" is essential in our everyday life.

1. He is the **bread of life** (Read John 6v35)
2. He invites us to come to him and drink and receive **living water** (Read 7v37-39)
3. He is the **light of the world** (Read John 8v12).

DISCUSS the above three passages and how essential his presence is in your life. What other essentials does Jesus bring to your life?