



DEC 20TH

THE *Light* IS COMING

EMMANUEL: GOD IS WITH US

ISAIAH 7:10-16, PSALM 80:1-7, 17-19, ROMANS 1:1-7, MATTHEW 1:18-25

START TALKING | ASK A QUESTION TO GET YOUR GROUP THINKING.

- Do you open presents on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day?
- What is a Christmas tradition in your family?

START THINKING | ASK A QUESTION TO GET YOUR GROUP THINKING.

- Read Isaiah 7:10-16 What does Emmanuel mean?
- Does King Ahaz follow the Lord's will?
- Read more about Ahaz in 2 Kings 16:2 and 2 Chronicles 28:16
- Read Matthew 1:18-24 How does Joseph's response differ from King Ahaz's response?
- Joseph knew that it was God speaking to him. How can we know when God is speaking to us?

START SHARING | CHOOSE A QUESTION TO CREATE OPENNESS.

- Methodists arose in 1700s England in a world of hurt: 55% of children did not live past age 5 and there was a bar for every 20 households
- Since the beginning Methodists are a people of "witness," a faithful presence with the suffering because our God is Emmanuel, God is with us.
- How can we be Methodists this week, being with and providing hope for people who are suffering?

START PRAYING | BE BOLD AND PRAY WITH POWER.

- Join together and pray: Father, we thank you that you do not leave us alone in our pain and suffering. You are God with us, sitting with us as we hurt and helping us find hope and healing in the midst of it. Help us to bring hope and healing to others as we prepare to celebrate Christmas together. Amen.

START DOING | COMMIT TO A STEP AND LIVE IT OUT THIS WEEK.

- Find one tangible way to bring hope and healing to someone this week. Curious as to what the season of Advent is all about? Check out this 4-day Bible reading on hope, peace, joy and love: <https://www.bible.com/reading-plans/13255-the-bible-project-advent>.