WOODVALE
PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

Connect Group Sermon Aligned Discussion Guide.

Sermon Title: Christmas Promises: LOVE
Key Scriptures: Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:21-25; Luke 1:34-37, 38
Recorded Sermon: www.woodvale.ca/pastservices/v/christmas-promises-series-part-4-love
Date + Speaker: December 22, 2024 Pastor Mark Scarr

Starter:

1. What is the MOST loving thing someone could do for you right now? Why would it be so meaningful?
   In his book, 'The 5 Love Languages' Gary Chapman identifies 5 ways that we recognize love. Acts of Service, Gifts, Physical Touch, Quality Time and Words of Affirmation. The Christmas story may not explicitly speak of the love of God for His people BUT if we read it in view of the 5 love languages, we see His love displayed everywhere!

The Big Idea: Jesus, God the Son – 100% God and 100% man - came to save us because God the Father loves us SO much. [John 3:16]

Discussion:

2. Take turns reading the key Scripture passages above aloud. What strikes you about these passages and why?
3. There were 700 years between Isaiah's life and the birth of Jesus. Between the 'making of the promise' and the 'keeping of the promise'. How do you feel about promises? What would you assume if someone had made a promise to you and <u>years</u> had passed and it still wasn't fulfilled?
4. Reread Matthew 1:21-25 Jesus=Yeshua=Jehovah SAVES →Jesus is God FOR us. Immanuel=Immanu El=With us God→Jesus is God WITH us. Read Isaiah 9:6. Jesus, the Messiah, had MANY names. Immanuel was one of them. What does it mean for you that God has been, is and will continue to be PRESENT?
5. Jesus is God OVER us. Pastor Mark shared how Joseph obeyed God at the cost of his reputation. How do you enthrone Jesus in your life? Has it 'cost' you? How?

6. He came; He is with us in the person of His Spirit; He is coming again. Read Romans 8:38&39. Conclude the group discussion by meditating together on God's great love for us. Give Him praise and thanks.

Diving Deeper:

7. What would it look like for you to surrender to Jesus and allow Him to use His creative power to do what only He can do?

Leader Resources:

-Consider providing context by sharing a bit about King Ahaz (NOT a nice guy). This prophecy was shared during a very dark time in Israel's history. Also be prepared with an interesting fact like: The likelihood of one man, from then until now, fulfilling even 8 of the 60 major Messianic prophecies is 1 in 10 to the power 17!!

-God is sovereign and specific and trustworthy; nothing is 'unplanned' with Him

-The wonder of the incarnation (John 1:14) is that God is <u>with</u> us. The Creator of the universe came down but He does not join us on our journey as an afterthought. He is present. Period.

-Acknowledging Jesus as Lord means we subject ourselves to His rule and reign. We obey Him. John 15:10 We deny ourselves and follow Him. Luke 9:23