



# 12 Days of Emmanuel

Kathryn B Trainor

God With Us  
Advent Devotional



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# 12 Days of Emmanuel – “God With Us” Devotional With In-Depth Studies

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She writes and teaches with a pastoral heart, drawing from Scripture, study, and lived experience, and offers her work freely as a ministry resource.

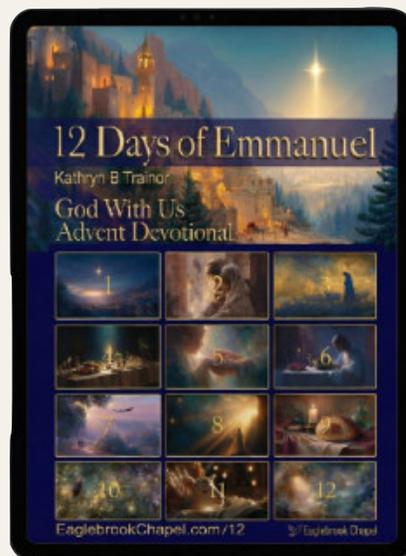
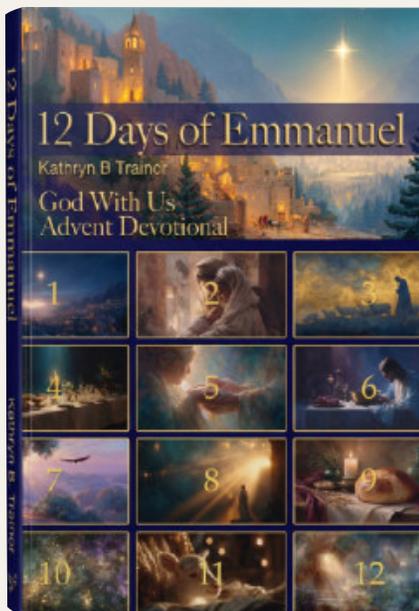
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# 12 Days of Emmanuel – “God With Us” Devotional

Each “Day” anchors to one major Bible principle truth and a collection of foundational verses.

## BIBLE FOUNDATION Briefs

### DAY 1 - Emmanuel: God *With Us*

**Core Truth:** God chose presence, not distance.

- *“Behold, the virgin shall conceive... and they shall call His name Immanuel... God with us.”* - **Matthew 1:23**
- *“My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.”* - **Exodus 33:14**
- *“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.”* - **John 1:14**

### DAY 2 - The Word Made Flesh

**Core Truth:** Jesus entered our world, limitations, and human experience.

- *“In the beginning was the Word... and the Word was God.”* - **John 1:1**
- *“The Word became flesh and lived among us.”* - **John 1:14**
- *“He had to be made like His brethren in all things.”* - **Hebrews 2:17**
- *“We do not have a High Priest unable to sympathize... but one who was tempted in all points as we are.”* - **Hebrews 4:15**

### DAY 3 - The Good Shepherd

**Core Truth:** He leads from among, not above.

- *“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.”* - **John 10:11**
- *“He calls His own sheep by name and leads them out.”* - **John 10:3**
- *“The Lord is my shepherd.”* - **Psalms 23:1**

### DAY 4 - The Friend of Sinners

**Core Truth:** Jesus joined the tables of those society rejected.

- *“The Son of Man came eating and drinking... a friend of tax collectors and sinners.”* - **Matthew 11:19**
- *“He received them and spoke to them about the kingdom of God.”* - **Luke 9:11**
- *“This man receives sinners and eats with them.”* - **Luke 15:2**

### DAY 5 - The Healer Who Draws Near

**Core Truth:** Healing required closeness - His touch, compassion, presence.

- *“Jesus stretched out His hand and touched him.”* - **Matthew 8:3**
- *“He healed all who were oppressed by the devil.”* - **Acts 10:38**
- *“He Himself took our infirmities and bore our sicknesses.”* - **Matthew 8:17**
- *“By His stripes you were healed.”* - **1 Peter 2:24**

## **DAY 6 - The Servant King**

**Core Truth:** He leads by stooping low.

- *“The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve.”* - **Mark 10:45**
- *“He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples’ feet.”* - **John 13:5**
- *“Have this mind... He emptied Himself, taking the form of a servant.”* - **Philippians 2:5-7**

## **DAY 7 - The Teacher Who Walked With Us**

**Core Truth:** His teaching came through shared life.

- *“Rabbi, where are You staying?” He said, “Come and see.”* - **John 1:38-39**
- *“He taught them as one with authority.”* - **Matthew 7:29**
- *“Beginning at Moses... He explained to them the things concerning Himself.”* - **Luke 24:27**

## **DAY 8 - The Intercessor**

**Core Truth:** Jesus stands with us and for us forever.

- *“He always lives to make intercession for them.”* - **Hebrews 7:25**
- *“We have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.”* - **1 John 2:1**
- *“Christ... is at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.”* - **Romans 8:34**

## **DAY 9 - The Bread of Life**

**Core Truth:** Jesus nourishes from within, not from afar.

- *“I am the bread of life.”* - **John 6:35**
- *“He who feeds on Me will live because of Me.”* - **John 6:57**
- *“Taste and see that the Lord is good.”* - **Psalms 34:8**

## **DAY 10 - The True Vine**

**Core Truth:** He shares His life with us in continual connection.

- *“I am the vine; you are the branches.”* - **John 15:5**
- *“Abide in Me, and I in you.”* - **John 15:4**
- *“In Him we live and move and have our being.”* - **Acts 17:28**

## **DAY 11 - The Lamb of God**

**Core Truth:** He entered our suffering to redeem us.

- *“Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.”* - **John 1:29**
- *“He was wounded for our transgressions... the chastisement for our peace was upon Him.”* - **Isaiah 53:5**
- *“This is My body, broken for you.”* - **1 Corinthians 11:24**

## **DAY 12 - The Resurrection and the Life**

**Core Truth:** His victory becomes our victory.

- *“I am the resurrection and the life.”* - **John 11:25**
- *“Because I live, you will live also.”* - **John 14:19**
- *“The Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead lives in you.”* - **Romans 8:11**
- *“He raised us up together.”* - **Ephesians 2:6**



# 12 Days of Emmanuel: God With Us

## Introduction: The Invitation to Draw Near

Welcome to a 12-day journey into the heart of God. In the coming days, we will set aside time to explore one of the most profound truths ever revealed to humanity, a truth captured in a single, powerful name: *Emmanuel*. This name, meaning “God with us,” is more than a seasonal title; it is God’s eternal decision to choose presence over distance and relationship over rules. It is the bold declaration that the Holy One of the universe stepped into human experience, not to observe from afar, but to share life with His people.

The purpose of this devotional is to guide you through twelve facets of Jesus's nature, twelve names and roles that reveal His nearness and deepen our personal connection with Him. Each day offers an opportunity to see Him more clearly—not as a distant ruler, but as the God who accompanies us on our journey, understands our burdens from within, and delights to be near His people.

I invite you to find a quiet space each day to meet with the “God who came close.” Let these readings and reflections be a doorway into a richer, more tangible experience of His presence. May this journey not only inform your mind but also transform your heart, drawing you into the steadfast, faithful, and unbroken companionship of the One who is, and always will be, Emmanuel.

To the Beloveds,

*Ka! ryn Trainor*

*PS... As always, our ma" rials are #eely shared. If! is encourages you, pass it on! It's rea%y very encouraging &! ink about Jesus in! is way any' me, not just at Christmas.*

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# Part I: The Arrival of Presence



## DAY 1 - EMMANUEL: GOD WITH US

### ✦ Scripture Foundation (AMPC)

#### Matthew 1:23 AMPC

*“Behold, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a Son, and they shall call His name Emmanuel-which, when translated, means God with us.”*

#### John 1:14 AMPC

*“And the Word (Christ) became flesh (human, incarnate) and tabernacled-fixed His tent of flesh, lived awhile-among us; and we [actually] saw His glory...”*

#### Exodus 33:14 AMPC

*“And the Lord said, My Presence shall go with you, and I will give you rest.”*

**Core Truth: God chose to be close, presence, not distance.**

### ✦ Today's Devotional Reading

The name *Emmanuel* is the foundation of our faith. It is not just a title but a statement of truth, a declaration of God's ultimate desire. From the Hebrew roots for "God" (*EI*) and "with us" (*immanu*), this name announces relationship before authority and companionship before command. It overturns every image of a distant, unreachable ruler and reveals a Savior who

## His Presence Transforms Everything

To receive Emmanuel is to accept a new reality: you do not face life alone.

- **For the Lonely:** You have a constant Companion.
- **For the Fearful:** His nearness is your security.
- **For the Weary:** His presence is your place of rest.
- **For the Inadequate:** His presence is your qualification.



"...for He [God] Himself has said, I will not in any way fail you nor give you up nor leave you without support. [I will] not, [I will] not, [I will] not in any degree leave you helpless..." — Hebrews 13:5 (AMPC)

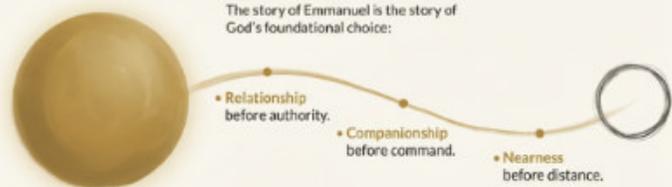
chose to come down, draw near, and walk beside those He loves. This is the good news: the God who made everything has entered human life.

This promise of nearness is a pattern woven throughout Scripture. God walked with Adam and Eve in Eden, led Israel by a pillar of cloud and fire, and filled the tabernacle with His glory. To Moses, who felt the weight of leading a rebellious people, God did not offer a complex strategy; He offered the most personal

promise possible: "My Presence shall go with you." He promised His *panay*, His very face, signifying direct, personal, attentive involvement—not that of a mere representative. God promised to turn His face toward His people.

This ancient promise finds its ultimate

## Presence, Not Distance



It is the bold declaration that the Holy One stepped into human experience not to observe from afar, but to share life with His people.

## A Name That Carries the Good News

The name itself is the message. It is the fulfillment of God's ancient promise to dwell with His people.

עִמָּנוּ אֵל  
Emmanuel

Emmanuel: From the Hebrew 'El' (God) and 'immanu' (with us).

"Behold, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a Son, and they shall call His name Emmanuel—which, when translated, means God with us." — Matthew 1:23 (AMPC)

fulfillment in Jesus. When John wrote that Jesus "tabernacled" among us, he used a word—*eskēnōsen*—that would have sent a shockwave through his Jewish readers. He was declaring that the awesome, tangible Presence of God that once filled a sacred tent in the wilderness was now, impossibly, contained in the skin of a

man. The eternal *Logos*—the divine reason and very expression of God—had become flesh, pitching His tent among His people not in fabric and gold, but in human skin.

Advent invites us to wonder again at this impossible truth. The manger was not mere decoration; the vulnerability was real. The God who flung stars into space was content to be held in human arms. This is Emmanuel—God choosing nearness over distance. To receive Him is to accept a new reality: you do not face life alone. His presence is not symbolic; it is tangible. His nearness is not

## How God Drew Near

Emmanuel is not a symbolic title; it is a tangible, historical reality expressed in two profound ways:



### He Tabernacled Among Us

The Word "fixed His tent of flesh" and lived where we live. His presence was as real and near as the Tabernacle in Israel's camp.

(John 1:14)



### He Gave Us His Face

God's promise of "My Presence" is literally "My Face" in Hebrew—the most personal, direct, and intimate companionship possible.

(Exodus 33:14)

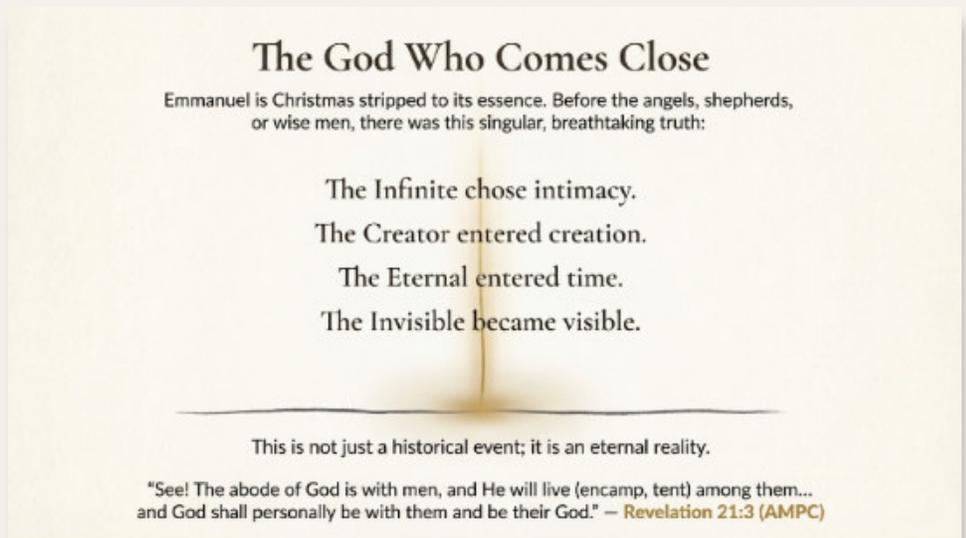
occasional; it is covenant. He has made an eternal decision to be with you, which leads us to the profound mystery of *how* He came to be with us, in the Word made flesh.

## Reflection & Application

Living with Emmanuel changes everything. For the lonely, it is the assurance that you are never truly alone. For the fearful, it is the quiet confidence that the One who is with you is greater than anything you face. For the weary, His presence is rest. His nearness means that God enters your pain not to explain it from a distance, but to share it from within.

- In what area of your life do you most need to be reminded that you are not alone?
- How does knowing God chose nearness over distance change the way you approach Him in prayer?
- How can you become more aware of His tangible, moment-by-moment presence with you today?

*Dear Father, thank You for the incredible gift of Your presence. Forgive me for the times I live as if I am alone. Open my eyes and my heart to see and feel Emmanuel, God with me, in every part of my day. Amen.*



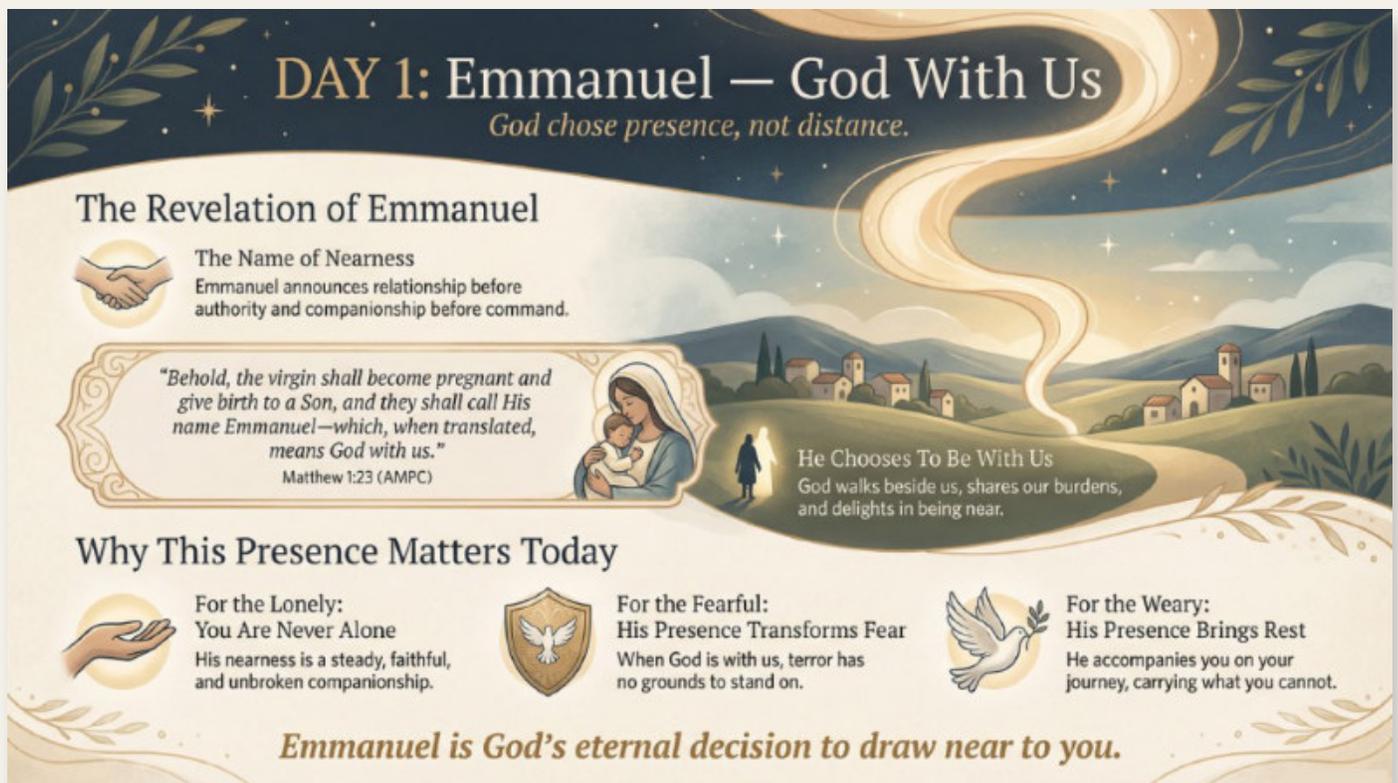
**The God Who Comes Close**

Emmanuel is Christmas stripped to its essence. Before the angels, shepherds, or wise men, there was this singular, breathtaking truth:

The Infinite chose intimacy.  
The Creator entered creation.  
The Eternal entered time.  
The Invisible became visible.

This is not just a historical event; it is an eternal reality.

"See! The abode of God is with men, and He will live (encamp, tent) among them... and God shall personally be with them and be their God." — **Revelation 21:3 (AMPC)**



**DAY 1: Emmanuel — God With Us**  
*God chose presence, not distance.*

**The Revelation of Emmanuel**

 **The Name of Nearness**  
Emmanuel announces relationship before authority and companionship before command.

*"Behold, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a Son, and they shall call His name Emmanuel—which, when translated, means God with us."*  
Matthew 1:23 (AMPC)

 **He Chooses To Be With Us**  
God walks beside us, shares our burdens, and delights in being near.

**Why This Presence Matters Today**

 **For the Lonely: You Are Never Alone**  
His nearness is a steady, faithful, and unbroken companionship.

 **For the Fearful: His Presence Transforms Fear**  
When God is with us, terror has no grounds to stand on.

 **For the Weary: His Presence Brings Rest**  
He accompanies you on your journey, carrying what you cannot.

**Emmanuel is God's eternal decision to draw near to you.**

# 12 Days of Emmanuel

## God With Us - Complete Study Guide



### DAY 1: Emmanuel - God With Us - In-depth Study

**Core Truth:** God chose presence, not distance.

#### I. FOUNDATION VERSES

"Behold, the **virgin** shall become **pregnant** and give birth to a Son, and they shall call His name **Emmanuel**—which, when translated, means, **God with us**." **Matthew 1:23 (AMPC)**

"And the **Word** (Christ) **became flesh** (human, incarnate) and **tabernacled**—fixed His tent of flesh, lived awhile—among us; and we [actually] saw His **glory** (honor, majesty, and splendor), such glory as an only begotten son receives from his father, full of **grace** (favor, loving-kindness) and **truth**." **John 1:14 (AMPC)**

"And the Lord said, **My Presence** shall go with you, and I will give you **rest**." **Exodus 33:14 (AMPC)**

#### II. WORD STUDIES

##### A. "Emmanuel" (Greek: *Emmanouēl* - Ἐμμανουήλ, Strong's G1694)

**Meaning:** From Hebrew roots meaning "God" (*El*) and "with us" (*immanu*). The name is not just a title but a statement of truth: God is choosing to be near.

**Biblical Use:** This name fulfills Isaiah's prophecy (Isaiah 7:14) and establishes the heart of the incarnation - God choosing nearness over distance, relationship over staying far away. The name itself is the good news: the God who made everything has entered human life.

**Application:** Emmanuel changes how we understand God. He is not a distant ruler watching from heaven but a present companion walking the road with His people.

##### B. "Word" (Greek: *Logos* - Λόγος, Strong's G3056)

**Meaning:** Far more than spoken words - *logos* carries the meaning of divine reason, creative power, eternal purpose, and God revealing Himself. In Greek thinking, *logos* represented the rational principle that governed everything.

**Biblical Use:** John's use of *logos* bridges Hebrew and Greek thought. The Word is not merely God's speech but God expressing Himself, the visible form of the invisible God. The *logos* is both the agent of creation (John 1:3) and how God reveals Himself.

**Application:** When the Word became flesh, all of God's purposes, promises, and character took on human form. To know Jesus is to know the fullness of what God wants to show us.

##### C. "Became Flesh" (Greek: *sarx egeneto* - σὰρξ ἐγένετο, Strong's G4561 + G1096)

**Meaning:** The verb *egeneto* (became) points to a definite moment in history - the eternal Word entered time. *Sarx* (flesh) emphasizes full humanity, not merely the appearance of it. This is the scandal and glory of the incarnation: deity embraced humanity completely.

**Biblical Importance:** This phrase refutes every attempt to lessen Christ's humanity. He did not merely appear human or temporarily inhabit a body - He became flesh, experiencing hunger, weariness, temptation, and limitation (while remaining sinless).

**Application:** Because Christ fully entered human experience, He can genuinely understand our weaknesses (Hebrews 4:15). His humanity qualifies Him to be our High Priest.

#### **D. "Tabernacled" (Greek: *eskēnōsen* - ἐσκήνωσεν, Strong's G4637)**

**Hebrew Background:** This verb echoes the Old Testament tabernacle (*mishkan*), where God's glory dwelt among Israel. The tabernacle was God's tent pitched in the midst of His people's camp.

**Biblical Connection:** Just as God's presence filled the tabernacle (Exodus 40:34-35), now the Word has pitched His tent of flesh among humanity. The temporary dwelling implies both closeness and a limited time - Christ "lived awhile" among us, but His presence continues through the Holy Spirit.

**Application:** God does not dwell at a distance. He has chosen to make His home with humanity, first in Jesus and now through the indwelling Spirit.

#### **E. "My Presence" (Hebrew: *panay* - פָּנָאָה, Strong's H6440)**

**Literal Meaning:** The Hebrew *panim* literally means "face." God promises Moses "My face shall go with you" - the most personal possible presence, not merely an angel or representative.

**Biblical Significance:** This promise comes after Israel's golden calf rebellion. Despite their failure, God commits to personal presence. The "face" of God represents His favor, attention, and direct involvement.

**Application:** God's presence is not earned by performance but granted by covenant. He promises to go with His people through every circumstance.

### **III. EXPANDED CROSS-REFERENCES**

#### **Theme: God's Commitment to Dwell Among His People**

**Isaiah 7:14 (AMPC):** "Therefore the Lord Himself shall give you a sign: Behold, the young woman who is unmarried and a **virgin** shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name **Immanuel** [God with us]."

**Connection:** The prophecy Matthew quotes establishes that Emmanuel is not a New Testament innovation but the fulfillment of God's ancient promise to dwell with His people.

**Psalms 23:4 (AMPC):** "Yes, though I walk through the [deep, sunless] valley of the shadow of death, I will fear or dread no evil, for **You are with me**; Your rod [to protect] and Your staff [to guide], they comfort me."

**Connection:** The promise of presence sustains us through the darkest valleys. God's "with-ness" is our security when circumstances threaten.

**Isaiah 41:10 (AMPC):** "Fear not [there is nothing to fear], for **I am with you**; do not look around you in terror and be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen and harden you to difficulties, yes, I will help you; yes, I will hold you up and retain you with My [victorious] right hand of rightness and justice."

**Connection:** God's presence removes the foundation of fear. When He is with us, terror has no grounds.

**Haggai 1:13 (AMPC):** *"Then Haggai, the Lord's messenger, spoke the Lord's message to the people, saying, **I am with you**, says the Lord."*

**Connection:** The simple declaration "I am with you" appears throughout Scripture as God's fundamental promise to His people. It requires no elaborate explanation - His presence is enough.

**Matthew 28:20 (AMPC):** *"Teaching them to observe everything that I have commanded you, and behold, **I am with you all the days** (perpetually, uniformly, and on every occasion), to the [very] close and consummation of the age. Amen (so let it be)."*

**Connection:** Christ's final promise to His disciples extends Emmanuel beyond His physical presence. Through the Spirit, He remains with us perpetually - not occasionally, but uniformly and on every occasion.

**Hebrews 13:5 (AMPC):** *"Let your character or moral disposition be free from love of money [including greed, avarice, lust, and craving for earthly possessions] and be satisfied with your present [circumstances and with what you have]; for He [God] Himself has said, **I will not in any way fail you nor give you up nor leave you without support. [I will] not, [I will] not, [I will] not in any degree leave you helpless nor forsake nor let [you] down** (relax My hold on you)! [Assuredly not!]"*

**Connection:** The emphatic repetition ("I will not, I will not, I will not") establishes God's unbreakable commitment to presence. He will never abandon, never forsake, never release His hold.

**Revelation 21:3 (AMPC):** *"Then I heard a mighty voice from the throne and I perceived its distinct words, saying, See! The abode of God is with men, and **He will live (encamp, tent) among them**; and they shall be His people, and God shall personally be with them and be their God."*

**Connection:** The ultimate fulfillment of Emmanuel - eternity will be marked by God dwelling personally among His people. The tabernacle becomes permanent.

## **IV. THE PATTERN OF GOD'S PRESENCE**

Throughout Scripture, God reveals Himself as the God who draws near:

**In Eden:** God walked in the garden in the cool of the day, seeking fellowship with Adam and Eve (Genesis 3:8).

**With Israel:** The pillar of cloud and fire demonstrated God's visible presence leading His people through the wilderness (Exodus 13:21-22).

**In the Tabernacle:** God's glory filled the tent of meeting, dwelling in the midst of Israel's camp (Exodus 40:34-38).

**Through the Prophets:** God spoke "mouth to mouth" with Moses (Numbers 12:8) and revealed Himself to the prophets.

**In Christ:** The Word became flesh and lived among us - the ultimate expression of divine nearness (John 1:14).

**By the Spirit:** Jesus promised another Comforter who would abide with us forever (John 14:16-17).

**In Eternity:** God Himself will dwell with His people in the new creation (Revelation 21:3).

## God Chose to Come Down

Emmanuel represents the amazing reality that the infinite God chose to limit Himself for the sake of relationship. The Creator entered creation. The eternal One entered time. The invisible became visible. The Word became flesh.

This is not God observing humanity from heaven. This is God experiencing humanity from within. He knows hunger because He fasted. He knows weariness because He slept. He knows temptation because He was tempted. He knows sorrow because He wept. He knows betrayal because Judas kissed Him. He knows death because He died.

Emmanuel is God saying: "I will not ask you to walk a road I have not traveled. I will not demand from you what I have not given. I will not remain distant from what I call you to endure."

## V. PRACTICAL APPLICATION

### Living With Emmanuel

**For the Lonely:** You are never alone. The God who promised "I am with you" has not changed His commitment. His presence is not dependent on your feelings or circumstances.

**For the Fearful:** Perfect love casts out fear (1 John 4:18). When you understand that omnipotent love walks beside you, what remains to fear?

**For the Weary:** His presence brings rest (Exodus 33:14). Not the rest of inactivity, but the rest of knowing He carries what you cannot.

**For the Inadequate:** His presence qualifies you. Moses objected to his calling until God promised, "Certainly I will be with you" (Exodus 3:12).

**For the Suffering:** He enters your pain, not to explain it but to share it. Emmanuel means God suffers with those who suffer.

## VI. ADVENT MEDITATION

Emmanuel is Christmas stripped to its essence. Before the angels sang, before the shepherds came, before the wise men presented gifts - there was this: God with us.

The manger was not decoration. The poverty was not staged humility. The vulnerability was real. God truly came near, near enough to be touched, near enough to be rejected, near enough to die.

Advent invites us to wonder again at this impossible truth: the God who flung stars into space was content to be held in human arms. The God who commands galaxies submitted to Mary's care. The God who owns everything entered the world owning nothing.

This is love beyond comprehension. This is glory wrapped in humility. This is the King arriving as a servant. This is Emmanuel.



## DAY 2 - THE WORD MADE FLESH

### Scripture Foundation (AMPC)

#### **John 1:1 AMPC**

*"In the beginning [before all time] was the Word (Christ), and the Word was with God, and the Word was God Himself."*

#### **John 1:14 AMPC**

*"And the Word (Christ) became flesh (human, incarnate) and tabernacled-fixed His tent of flesh, lived awhile-among us; and we [actually] saw His glory..."*

#### **Hebrews 2:17 AMPC**

*"So it is evident that He had to be made like His brethren in every respect... to make atonement and propitiation for the people."*

#### **Hebrews 4:15 AMPC**

*"For we do not have a High Priest Who is unable to understand and sympathize... but One Who has been tempted in every respect as we are, yet without sinning."*

**Core Truth: Jesus entered our world, limitations, and human experience.**

### Today's Devotional Reading

If Emmanuel is God's decision to be with us, then "the Word made flesh" is the astonishing mechanism He chose to make it happen. John begins his gospel by echoing Genesis: *"In the beginning"*, establishing that Christ existed before all time. He was not made; He is the eternal

## Before Time, There Was the Word

The story of Emmanuel does not begin in a manger, but in eternity. Before creation, before time itself, the eternal Christ existed in perfect unity with God.

"In the beginning [before all time] was the Word (Christ), and the Word was with God, and the Word was God Himself."  
John 1:1 (AMPC)

### The Word (Logos):

More than speech, this refers to the divine reason, creative power, and eternal purpose of God. The Word is God expressing His own nature.



God. This is the scandal and the glory of the incarnation: the infinite God willingly imprisoned Himself in the confines of human flesh. The timeless One subjected Himself to the tyranny of the clock. Majesty learned to walk.

The incarnation means that Jesus embraced every part of our experience. He grew, learning and increasing in wisdom and stature

(Luke 2:52). He knew weariness after a long day. He grieved deeply, so much so that He wept at the tomb of His friend (John 11:35). He was not an actor playing a human role; He fully entered our story. He had to be made like us "in every respect" so He could become our merciful and faithful High Priest. His humanity qualifies Him to represent us, and His



## A Necessary Likeness

For Jesus to stand in our place, He had to become one of us. His complete humanity was a prerequisite for His work as our merciful and faithful High Priest.

"So it is evident that it was necessary for Him to be made like His brethren in every respect, in order that He might become a merciful (sympathetic) and faithful High Priest... to make atonement and propitiation for the people's sins."  
Hebrews 2:17 (AMPC)

### Word Study Highlight:

**Propitiation** (*hilaskethai*): Christ's sacrifice fully satisfied the justice of God. He absorbed the penalty our sin deserved so that we could receive mercy.

## The Fullness of Human Experience

Christ's humanity was not a costume; it was His reality. He experienced the human journey from infancy to adulthood, with all its growth, joy, and sorrow.



**He Grew:** "And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in years, and in favor with God and man."  
- Luke 2:52 (AMPC)



**He Wept:** "Jesus wept."  
- John 11:35 (AMPC)



**He Grieved:** "My soul is very sad and deeply grieved, so that I am almost dying of sorrow."  
- Matthew 26:38 (AMPC)

sacrifice makes *propitiation* for our sins, satisfying God's perfect justice so that we could receive mercy.

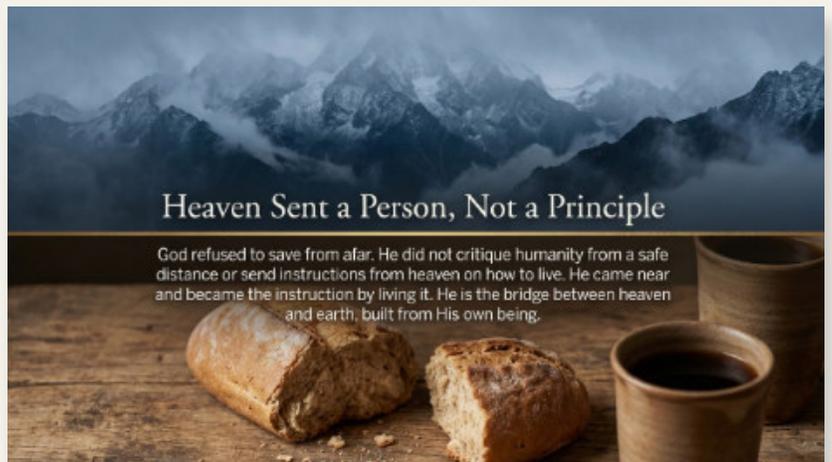
Because He lived our life, He can truly *sympathize* with our weaknesses. This is not detached pity but a shared, felt experience. He was "tempted in every respect as we are, yet without sinning." He understands the pull of temptation,

the pressure of expectations, and the weight of sorrow from the inside. Your struggles do not surprise Him. Your weaknesses do not shock Him. He has been there. Heaven did not send salvation as a message—heaven sent salvation as a Man.

The Savior in the manger knows your life because He lived it. He understands your battles because He fought them. He carries your heart

## Heaven Sent a Person, Not a Principle

God refused to save from afar. He did not critique humanity from a safe distance or send instructions from heaven on how to live. He came near and became the instruction by living it. He is the bridge between heaven and earth, built from His own being.



## Living as the Understood



**In Your Weakness:** You have a High Priest who sympathizes. Approach Him without shame.



**In Temptation:** He knows the pull of sin and provides the way of escape. His victory is available to you.



**In Sorrow:** He has wept. He carries your grief with understanding, not distance.



**In Loneliness:** He knows rejection. He does not reject you.

because He has one, too. Because the Word became flesh, you are never misunderstood by God. He is both mighty enough to save you and near enough to understand you completely, paving the way for the tender, personal leadership of the Good Shepherd.

## Reflection & Application

Because Jesus became one of us, we can approach God with a confidence we could never otherwise possess. Our High Priest understands our weaknesses not by

### Tempted in Every Respect, Yet Without Sin

Christ faced the full spectrum of human temptation—to doubt God's Word, to seek power through compromise, to avoid suffering. His victory was not due to an exemption from the struggle, but a triumph within it.

*"For we do not have a High Priest Who is unable to understand and sympathize... but One Who has been tempted in every respect as we are, yet without sinning."*

Hebrews 4:15 (AMPC)



### A High Priest Who Understands from the Inside

Jesus's sympathy is not detached pity. He does not observe our struggles from a distance; He lived them. He knows hunger, rejection, betrayal, physical pain, and the weight of temptation. His understanding is rooted in shared experience.

**Sympathize** (*sympathēsai*): To suffer together with; to feel the same thing; to experience alongside.



observation, but by experience. We can bring our struggles, temptations, and sorrows to Him without fear or shame, knowing that He is able to sympathize and ready to provide grace.

•Where have you felt misunderstood in your struggles? How does knowing Jesus "sympathizes" with you bring comfort?

- How can you approach God with more confidence, knowing your High Priest has been tempted in every respect, yet without sin?
- What weakness or infirmity do you need to bring to Him today, trusting in His understanding?

*Father, thank You that Jesus became flesh. Thank You for a High Priest who understands me completely. Give me the courage to draw near to Your throne of grace with confidence, knowing I will find mercy and help in my time of need. Amen.*

### The Mystery in the Manger

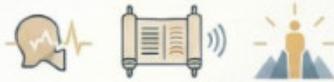
Advent declares that heaven did not remain distant. The Word did not stay in eternity. God refused to save from afar. He came near. He became one of us.

**The Savior in the manger knows your life because He lived it. He understands your battles because He fought them. He carries your heart because He has one too.**

# Day 2: The Word Made Flesh

The Role of Christ: The Divine Word Who Fully Entered Human Experience

The eternal Christ stepped into our world, embracing every part of human life from within.



## With-Us Emphasis



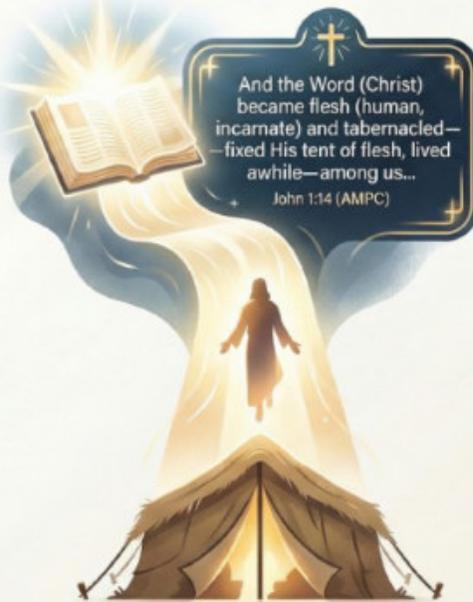
Felt what we feel

Faced what we face

Walked our dusty roads

## Reflection Prompt

How does knowing Jesus fully understands your human struggles change the way you approach Him in prayer?



And the Word (Christ) became flesh (human, incarnate) and tabernacled—fixed His tent of flesh, lived awhile—among us...  
John 1:14 (AMPC)

**Core Revelation:** God did not send salvation as a message—He sent salvation as a Man.



His nearness was not symbolic; it was complete, making Him a High Priest who understands our weakness from the inside.

## Why This Matters Today



**In Your Weakness**  
You have a High Priest who truly sympathizes.



**In Temptation**  
He knows the pull of sin and overcame it.



**In Sorrow**  
He has wept and carries your grief with understanding.

## Anchor Line

**Mighty enough to save,  
near enough to understand.**

# 12 Days of Emmanuel

## God With Us - Complete Study Guide

### DAY 2: The Word Made Flesh - In-depth Study

**Core Truth:** Jesus entered our world, limitations, and human experience.



## I. FOUNDATION VERSES

"In the beginning [before all time] was the **Word** (Christ), and the Word was **with God**, and the Word **was God Himself**." **John 1:1 (AMPC)**

"And the **Word** (Christ) **became flesh** (human, incarnate) and **tabernacled**-fixed His tent of flesh, lived awhile-among us; and we [actually] saw His **glory** (honor, majesty, and splendor), such glory as an only begotten son receives from his father, full of **grace** (favor, loving-kindness) and **truth**." **John 1:14 (AMPC)**

"So it is evident that it was necessary for Him to be made **like His brethren in every respect**, in order that He might become a merciful (sympathetic) and faithful High Priest in the things related to God, to make **atonement and propitiation** for the people's sins." **Hebrews 2:17 (AMPC)**

"For we do not have a High Priest Who is unable to **understand and sympathize** and have a shared feeling with our weaknesses and infirmities and liability to the assaults of temptation, but One Who has been **tempted in every respect as we are, yet without sinning**." **Hebrews 4:15 (AMPC)**

## II. WORD STUDIES

### A. "In the Beginning" (Greek: *en archē* - ἐν ἀρχῇ, Strong's G1722 + G746)

**Meaning:** This phrase echoes Genesis 1:1, deliberately pointing to the eternal existence of the Word before creation. *Archē* means beginning, origin, or first cause.

**Biblical Use:** By starting with these words, John establishes that Christ existed before time, before matter, before the created order. He was not made; He is eternal.

**Application:** The One who became flesh in Bethlehem was not a created being but the eternal God. This truth anchors our faith - we are saved by God Himself, not a powerful created messenger.

### B. "Propitiation" (Greek: *hilaskesthai* - ἱλάσκεσθαι, Strong's G2433)

**Meaning:** To make satisfaction for sin, to appease wrath, to provide a covering that turns away just anger. This is a legal and sacrificial term.

**Biblical Use:** Christ's sacrifice satisfied God's justice. The wrath that our sin deserved was placed on Him. He absorbed the penalty so we could receive mercy.

**Application:** You do not have to fear God's anger. The propitiation is complete. Christ has satisfied every legal demand against you.

### C. "Sympathize" (Greek: *sympathēsai* - συμπαθήσαι, Strong's G4834)

**Meaning:** To suffer together with, to feel the same thing, to experience alongside. This is not detached pity but shared experience.

**Biblical Importance:** Jesus does not observe our struggles from a distance. He lived them. He felt hunger, rejection, betrayal, physical pain, and the weight of temptation. His understanding is experiential.

**Application:** When you pray, remember you are talking to Someone who knows. He is not learning about your struggles; He has walked through them Himself.

### D. "Tempted in Every Respect" (Greek: *pepirasmenon kata panta* - πεπειρασμένον κατὰ πάντα, Strong's G3985 + G2596 + G3956)

**Meaning:** Tested, tried, solicited to sin in all ways, according to all things. *Kata panta* means in every manner, across every category of temptation.

**Biblical Use:** Christ faced the full spectrum of human temptation. He was tempted to doubt God's Word (Matthew 4:3), to seek power through compromise (Matthew 4:8-9), to avoid suffering (Matthew 26:39), yet He never sinned.

**Application:** No temptation you face is foreign to Christ. He understands the pull, the pressure, the appeal of sin - and He overcame it. His victory is available to you.

## III. CROSS-REFERENCES

### Theme: Christ's Full Humanity

*"Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people."*

**Hebrews 2:17 (NKJV via AMPC concept)**

**Connection:** Christ's humanity was not symbolic. It was complete. He had to become like us in order to represent us before God.

*"But when the proper time had fully come, God sent His Son, **born of a woman**, born subject to [the regulations of] the Law."* **Galatians 4:4 (AMPC)**

**Connection:** Jesus was born into the human condition - not just appearing as human but truly born, truly vulnerable, truly subject to the limitations of flesh.

*"And **Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in years, and in favor with God and man."*** **Luke 2:52 (AMPC)**

**Connection:** Jesus grew. He learned. He developed. This is not the story of God pretending to be human; this is God truly experiencing the human journey from infancy to adulthood.

*"And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to show **grief and distress of mind and was deeply depressed**. Then He said to them, **My soul is very sad and deeply grieved**, so that I am almost dying of sorrow."* **Matthew 26:37-38 (AMPC)**

**Connection:** Jesus experienced genuine emotional pain. His sorrow in Gethsemane was real, not staged. He carried human emotion fully.

*"Jesus **wept**."* **John 11:35 (AMPC)**

**Connection:** The shortest verse in Scripture carries profound truth - God in flesh experienced the depth of human grief and expressed it with tears.

## IV. THE BRIDGE BETWEEN HEAVEN AND EARTH

The incarnation is the ultimate act of divine compassion. God did not send instructions from heaven on how to live a holy life. He sent Himself. He became the instruction by living it.

Christ did not critique humanity from a safe distance. He entered the mess. He felt weariness after a long day. He knew the sting of betrayal. He experienced the pressure of expectations. He faced the weight of responsibility. He bore the reality of physical pain.

Because He walked the human road fully, He understands you fully. Your struggles do not surprise Him. Your weaknesses do not shock Him. Your battles do not confuse Him. He has been there.

## V. LIVING AS THE UNDERSTOOD

**In Your Weakness:** You have a High Priest who sympathizes. Bring your struggles to Him without shame.

**In Temptation:** He knows the pull of sin and provides the way of escape (1 Corinthians 10:13).

**In Sorrow:** He has wept. He carries your grief with understanding, not distance.

**In Pressure:** He felt the weight of expectations and remained faithful. He will strengthen you under yours.

**In Loneliness:** He knows rejection. He will never reject you.

## VI. ADVENT MEDITATION

The Word became flesh. Deity took on humanity. The infinite embraced limitation. The eternal entered time.

This is the mystery of Christmas - not that a good man appeared, but that God arrived. Not that a teacher came, but that the Creator stepped into His own creation.

Advent declares that heaven did not remain distant. The Word did not stay in eternity. God refused to save from afar. He came near. He became one of us.

The Savior in the manger knows your life because He lived it. He understands your battles because He fought them. He carries your heart because He has one too.

## Part II: The Character of Presence



### DAY 3 - THE GOOD SHEPHERD

#### Scripture Foundation (AMPC)

##### **John 10:11 AMPC**

*“I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd risks and lays down His [own] life for the sheep.”*

##### **John 10:3–4 AMPC**

*“The sheep listen to his voice... he walks on before them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice.”*

##### **Psalms 23:1 AMPC**

*“The Lord is my Shepherd [to feed, guide, and shield me], I shall not lack.”*

##### **Isaiah 40:11 AMPC**

*“He will feed His flock like a shepherd; He will gather the lambs in His arm and carry them in His bosom.”*

**Core Truth: He leads from among, not above.**

#### Today's Devotional Reading

In Jesus, we meet a God whose leadership is personal, protective, and present. He reveals Himself as the Good Shepherd, a figure who does not direct with distant commands but leads from among the flock. He walks with his sheep, calling them gently by name, knowing their



**Jesus leads by presence,  
not pressure.**

individual tendencies, fears, and wounds. Where the Shepherd is, there is safety; where He leads, there is peace.

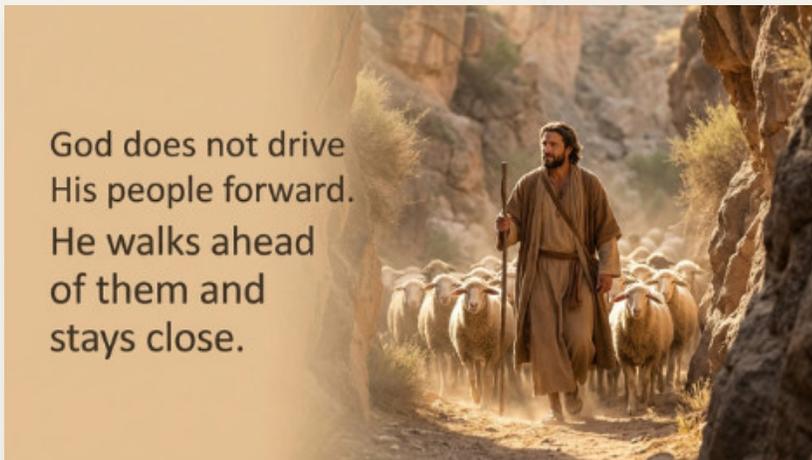
Jesus declares, "I am the *Good Shepherd*." The Greek word used here is *kalos*, which means not just morally good but noble, excellent, and supremely ideal. He is the perfect

Shepherd, contrasted with the hired hand who flees at the first sign of danger. The *kalos* Shepherd owns the sheep, loves the sheep, and ultimately "lays down His life" for them. This is not an accidental

**I am the Good Shepherd.  
The Good Shepherd risks  
and lays down His own  
life for the sheep.**



John 10:11 AMPC



**God does not drive  
His people forward.  
He walks ahead  
of them and  
stays close.**

death but a deliberate, voluntary sacrifice. His care is not passive; it is sacrificial. He protects you with His very life.

This Shepherd's leadership is marked by intimacy. He says the sheep follow Him because they know His *voice*. In the ancient Middle East, a shepherd's

unique call would cut through the noise of many other flocks, and only his sheep would respond. Learning to discern His voice amidst the clamor of fear, confusion, and condemnation is central to our walk with Him. His voice brings clarity, confidence, and direction. In His shepherding, we discover both rest and courage—the rest of being known and the courage of being led.

The Good Shepherd came as a Lamb, born in a stable near where shepherds kept their flocks. He understands the flock because He joined it. To walk with this Shepherd is to live without lack, not because life becomes easy, but because His presence fills every empty place. His watchfulness is perfect. This

**"I am the Good  
Shepherd. The Good  
Shepherd risks and lays  
down His [own] life for  
the sheep."  
— John 10:11 AMPC**

**God does not drive His  
people forward with  
distant commands. He  
walks ahead of them,  
stays close, and calls them  
gently by name.**

protective love extends beyond the fold, reaching out with radical inclusion to the very people society had cast aside, earning Him the scandalous title: "Friend of Sinners."

## Reflection & Application

Living under the Shepherd's care means learning to trust His guidance, even when the path is uncertain. It means quieting our hearts to listen for His voice above all others. It means finding rest in the green pastures He provides and fearing no evil in the darkest valley, because He is with us. His presence is our provision and our protection.

- In what area of your life do you need to stop and listen for the Shepherd's voice?
- How can you rest in the truth that He is leading you to "green pastures," even when the path feels uncertain?
- What fear can you release today, knowing the Good Shepherd protects you?

## Why This Matters Today

- We are not abandoned or forgotten.
- Guidance comes through relationship and His voice.
- Safety is found in His nearness.

*Where might Jesus be gently leading you today?*

*Lord Jesus, my Good Shepherd, thank you for your constant, personal care. Help me to know Your voice and to follow You without fear. I entrust my day, my path, and my heart to Your guidance and protection. Amen.*

# The Shepherd Who Walks With Us

The One who leads from among, not from above.

**"I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd risks and lays down His [own] life for the sheep."**  
John 10:11 AMPC

**His leadership is personal, tender, and protective.**  
It is revealed through His nearness and constant companionship.

 <b>Walks among the flock</b>	 <b>Knows you by name</b>	 <b>Guards with His presence</b>
In uncertainty, His voice provides clear direction.	In fear, His presence is your unwavering protection.	In weariness, He leads you into true spiritual rest.

How can you quiet other voices today to better hear the Shepherd's leading?

**You walk with the One who knows the way.**

# 12 Days of Emmanuel

## God With Us - Complete Study Guide

### DAY 3: The Good Shepherd - In-Depth Study

**Core Truth:** He leads from among, not above.



#### I. FOUNDATION VERSES

"I am the **Good Shepherd**. The Good Shepherd **risks and lays down His [own] life** for the sheep." **John 10:11 (AMPC)**

"The sheep listen to **his voice** and heed it; and he calls his own sheep by name and brings (leads) them out. When he has brought his own sheep outside, he **walks on before them**, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice." **John 10:3-4 (AMPC)**

"The Lord is my **Shepherd** [to feed, guide, and shield me], I shall not lack." **Psalms 23:1 (AMPC)**

"He will **feed His flock like a shepherd**: He will gather the lambs in His arm, He will carry them in His bosom and will gently lead those that have their young." **Isaiah 40:11 (AMPC)**

#### II. WORD STUDIES

**A. "Good Shepherd" (Greek: *ho poimēn ho kalos* - ὁ ποιμὴν ὁ καλός, Strong's G4166 + G2570)**

**Meaning:** *Poimēn* means shepherd, one who tends, feeds, and protects the flock. *Kalos* means good in the sense of beautiful, noble, honorable, excellent - not just morally good but supremely ideal.

**Biblical Use:** Jesus contrasts Himself with the hired hand who flees when danger comes. The Good Shepherd owns the sheep, loves the sheep, and dies for the sheep.

**Application:** Your Shepherd is not a hired worker doing a job. He has personal investment in your wellbeing. You belong to Him, and He protects you with His life.

**B. "Voice" (Greek: *phōnē* - φωνή, Strong's G5456)**

**Meaning:** Sound, tone, language, utterance - the distinctive sound by which someone is recognized.

**Biblical Use:** Sheep in the ancient Middle East knew their shepherd's specific voice. Among many shepherds calling, sheep would respond only to the one they knew.

**Application:** You can recognize Christ's voice. It carries peace, truth, and life. Other voices may call - fear, condemnation, confusion - but His voice is distinct. Learn it through His Word and His Spirit.

**C. "Lays Down His Life" (Greek: *tithēsīn tēn psychēn autou* - τίθησιν τὴν ψυχὴν αὐτοῦ, Strong's G5087 + G5590)**

**Meaning:** To place, to set, to lay down voluntarily. *Psychē* means life, soul, the vital breath. This is not accidental death but deliberate sacrifice.

**Biblical Use:** Jesus makes clear that no one takes His life from Him; He lays it down of His own will (John 10:18). His death was voluntary, intentional, and sacrificial.

**Application:** The Shepherd did not die as a victim. He died as a volunteer. His love for you moved Him to choose death so you could have life.

### III. CROSS-REFERENCES

#### Theme: The Shepherd's Care

*"He makes me lie down in [fresh, tender] **green pastures**; He leads me beside the **still and restful waters**. He refreshes and restores my life (my self); He leads me in the paths of righteousness [uprightness and right standing with Him-not for my earning it, but] for His name's sake." Psalm 23:2-3 (AMPC)*

**Connection:** The Good Shepherd does not drive His sheep; He leads them. He provides rest, refreshment, and restoration. His care is gentle and renewing.

*"All we like sheep have gone astray, we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord has made to light upon Him the guilt and iniquity of us all." Isaiah 53:6 (AMPC)*

**Connection:** We wander like sheep. The Shepherd came to bring us back, bearing our guilt Himself.

*"For the Lamb Who is in the midst of the throne will be their **Shepherd**, and He will guide them to the springs of the waters of life; and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes." Revelation 7:17 (AMPC)*

**Connection:** The Lamb who died is also the Shepherd who leads. His sacrifice qualified Him to guide us forever.

*"And when the **Chief Shepherd** is revealed, you will win the conqueror's crown of glory." 1 Peter 5:4 (AMPC)*

**Connection:** Jesus is the Chief Shepherd over all. Every under-shepherd in the church answers to Him. His leadership is supreme.

*"Now may the God of peace [Who is the Author and the Giver of peace], Who brought again from among the dead our Lord Jesus, that **great Shepherd of the sheep**, by the blood [that sealed, ratified] the everlasting agreement (covenant, testament), strengthen (complete, perfect) and make you what you ought to be." Hebrews 13:20-21 (AMPC)*

**Connection:** The Shepherd who died has risen. His resurrection power now works in us to make us what we ought to be.

### IV. THE SHEPHERD WHO WALKS WITH YOU

The image of the shepherd is personal. He does not stand at a distance shouting directions. He walks ahead, calling His sheep by name, leading them where they need to go.

The Good Shepherd knows every sheep individually. He knows their tendencies, their fears, their wounds. He sees the one who limps, the one who wanders, the one who struggles to keep up. And He adjusts His pace. He carries the weak. He searches for the lost.

This is Jesus. He does not manage you from heaven. He leads you through life. His voice is steady. His presence is constant. His care is personal.

## **V. LIVING UNDER THE SHEPHERD'S CARE**

**When Uncertain:** Listen for His voice. He will lead you to the right path.

**When Afraid:** Remember the rod and staff. He protects you from danger.

**When Weary:** He makes you lie down in green pastures. Rest is part of His leading.

**When Lost:** He leaves the ninety-nine to find the one. He will come for you.

**When Attacked:** He lays down His life for the sheep. No enemy can take you from His hand.

## **VI. ADVENT MEDITATION**

The Good Shepherd came as a Lamb. Born in a stable where shepherds kept their flocks, announced first to shepherds watching their sheep - the symbolism is deliberate.

The Shepherd King arrived in humility. He did not come with royal robes but with the scent of animals and hay. He entered the world among the lambs He would one day die to save.

Advent reminds us that the Shepherd knows the sheep because He became one. He understands the flock because He joined it. And now He leads us with a voice we can trust and a heart that will never abandon us.



## DAY 4 - THE FRIEND OF SINNERS

### Scripture Foundation (AMPC)

#### **Matthew 11:19 AMPC**

*“The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, Behold, a glutton and a wine drinker, a friend of tax collectors and notorious sinners-yet wisdom is justified and vindicated by what she does.”*

#### **Luke 15:2 AMPC**

*“And the Pharisees and the scribes kept muttering and indignantly complaining, saying, This man accepts and receives and welcomes preeminently sinners and eats with them.”*

#### **Luke 19:10 AMPC**

*“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save that which was lost.”*

#### **Luke 5:31–32 AMPC**

*“Jesus replied to them, It is not those who are healthy who need a physician, but those who are sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.”*

**Core Truth: Jesus joined the tables of those society rejected.**

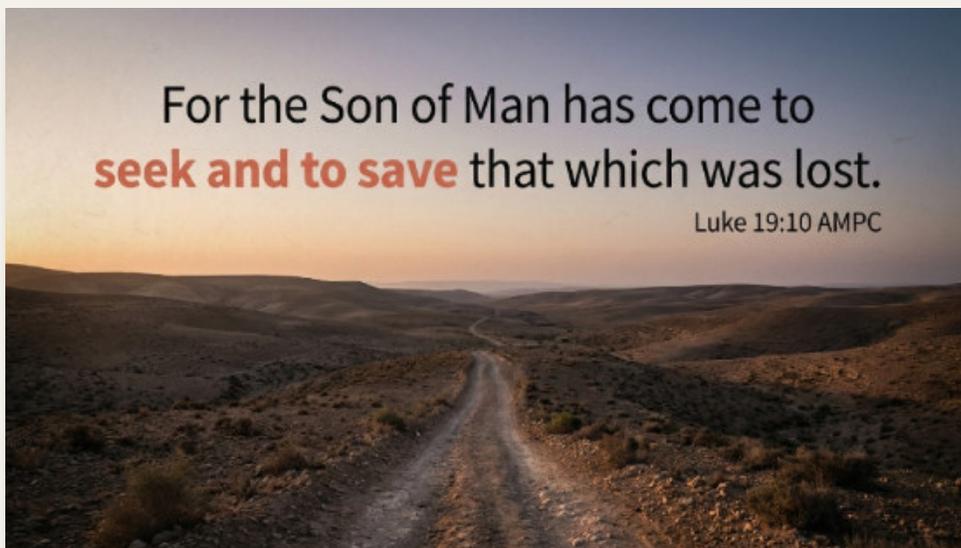
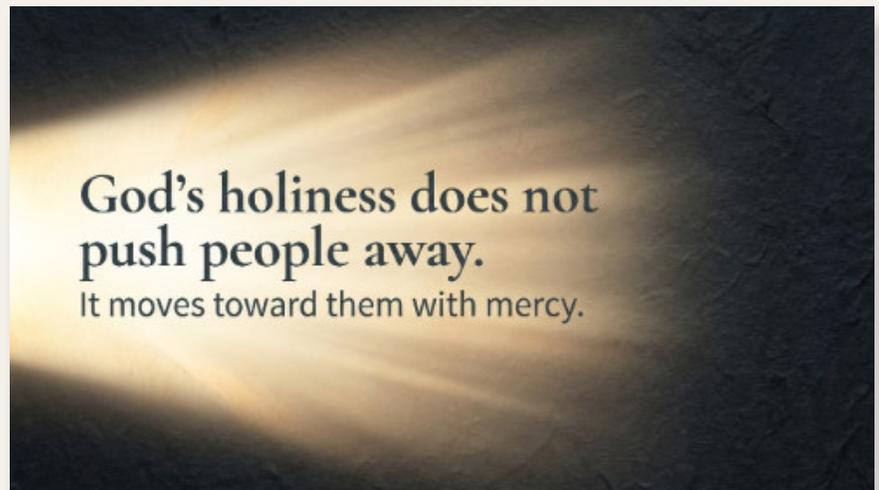
### Today's Devotional Reading

The title "Friend of Sinners" was first hurled at Jesus as an insult, a way for the religious elite to discredit Him. Yet Jesus embraced it as a core truth of His mission. The Pharisees complained

## Jesus restores dignity by drawing near, not pulling away.

that Jesus welcomed "*preeminently wicked sinners*" and ate with them. This was not about association with the morally imperfect; it was about fellowship with those deemed hopelessly corrupt and beyond redemption. In a culture where table fellowship signified acceptance, Jesus deliberately joined the tables of those society rejected, revealing a God who offers not condemnation but companionship.

This was a radical, counter-cultural act. The Pharisees were scandalized that Jesus "eats with them," because sharing a meal meant endorsement. But Jesus wasn't endorsing sin; He was offering transformation. He was a physician who had come not for the healthy, but for the sick. His friendship—His chosen, affectionate companionship (*philos*)—was His method of healing. Where others saw a tax collector who had betrayed his people, Jesus saw a future disciple. Where others saw a woman marked by shame, Jesus saw a heart ready for worship.



Jesus did not wait for the lost to find Him; His mission was to "seek and save" them. His love was not passive but active and pursuing. He went searching for Zacchaeus in the tree and called Matthew from his tax booth. He did not protect His reputation; He protected the outcast. His friendship lifts shame, restores dignity, and calls the heart into a new life.

This compassion for the

socially outcast was mirrored in His profound care for the physically afflicted, revealing Him as our Healer.

## Reflection & Application

We are all sinners in need of a physician, outcasts in need of a friend. Jesus's open table means there is a place for you, regardless of your past failures or present struggles. His friendship is not earned by our goodness but is a gift offered in our brokenness. Receiving this gift means letting go of shame and accepting His radical welcome.



- What past failures or shame make it hard for you to believe Jesus welcomes you to His table?
- How does knowing that Jesus actively seeks the lost change your view of God's heart toward you?
- Who in your life can you show the same kind of radical acceptance that Jesus shows you?

*Jesus, thank you for being a Friend to sinners like me. Thank you for seeking me when I was lost and welcoming me to Your table. Help me to live in the freedom of Your friendship and to extend that same grace to others. Amen.*

## Grace welcomes before it corrects

Shame is not a barrier to God

Restoration begins with presence

# Day 4: The Friend of Sinners

He is the One who seeks and shares a table with the rejected.

**With-Us Emphasis**

Sought the outcast

Shared their table

Rewrote their story

*The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, Behold, a glutton and a wine drinker, a friend of tax collectors and notorious sinners!<sup>14</sup>*  
— Matthew 11:19 (AMPC)

**His friendship reveals a God who sits where people hurt.**

He sought out the broken, entering the places others avoid to offer relationship.

**Reflection Prompt**  
Where in your life do you need to believe Jesus is willing to sit with you in the mess?

**Why This Matters Today**

- Your past does not disqualify you from His presence.
- His friendship lifts shame and restores dignity.
- He welcomes those the world rejects.

**God sits at your table.**

# 12 Days of Emmanuel

## God With Us - Complete Study Guide

### DAY 4: The Friend of Sinners - In-Depth Study

**Core Truth:** Jesus joined the tables of those society rejected.



#### I. FOUNDATION VERSES

*"The Son of Man came eating and drinking [with others], and they say, Behold, a glutton and a wine drinker, a **friend of tax collectors and [especially wicked] sinners!** Yet wisdom is justified and vindicated by what she does (her deeds) and by her children." **Matthew 11:19 (AMPC)***

*"And the Pharisees and the scribes kept muttering and indignantly complaining, saying, **This man accepts and receives and welcomes [preeminently wicked] sinners and eats with them.**" **Luke 15:2 (AMPC)***

*"For the Son of Man came to **seek and to save that which was lost.**" **Luke 19:10 (AMPC)***

*"And Jesus, replying, said to them, It is not those who are healthy who need a physician, but those who are sick. **I have not come to arouse and invite and call the righteous, but sinners to repentance** [to change their minds for the better and heartily to amend their ways, with abhorrence of their past sins]." **Luke 5:31-32 (AMPC)***

#### II. WORD STUDIES

##### A. "Friend" (Greek: *philos* - φίλος, Strong's G5384)

**Meaning:** A loved one, dear friend, associate. This is not casual acquaintance but genuine affection and chosen companionship.

**Biblical Use:** Jesus was called the "friend of sinners" as an insult by the Pharisees, but He embraced it as truth. He did not keep sinners at arm's length; He ate with them, talked with them, welcomed them into His presence.

**Application:** Jesus is not embarrassed by your past. He is not ashamed of your failures. He calls you friend, not project. His friendship is real, warm, and transforming.

##### B. "Eats With Them" (Greek: *esthiei met autōn* - ἐσθίει μετ' αὐτῶν, Strong's G2068 + G3326)

**Meaning:** To eat together, to share a meal. In Jewish culture, sharing a meal signified acceptance, fellowship, and relationship.

**Biblical Use:** The Pharisees were scandalized because eating with someone meant you endorsed them. Jesus deliberately ate with tax collectors, prostitutes, and sinners - the very people religious leaders avoided.

**Application:** Jesus does not wait for you to clean up before He draws near. He enters your mess, sits at your table, and offers relationship right where you are.

**C. "Seek and Save" (Greek: *zētēsai kai sōsai* - ζητήσαι καὶ σῶσαι, Strong's G2212 + G4982)**

**Meaning:** To seek is to search diligently, to pursue. To save is to rescue, deliver, preserve from destruction.

**Biblical Use:** Jesus did not wait for people to find Him. He went searching. He pursued Zacchaeus. He called Matthew. He spoke to the woman at the well. His mission was active, intentional, relentless.

**Application:** If you feel far from God, remember - He is the One doing the seeking. He pursues the lost. He finds the wandering. His love is not passive; it is pursuing you.

### III. CROSS-REFERENCES

**Theme: Jesus Welcomes Sinners**

*"Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy-laden and overburdened, and I will cause you to rest. [I will ease and relieve and refresh your souls.]"* **Matthew 11:28 (AMPC)**

**Connection:** Jesus invites the weary, the burdened, the struggling. His invitation is open, not restricted to the righteous.

*"The Spirit of the Lord [is] upon Me, because He has anointed Me [the Anointed One, the Messiah] to preach the good news (the Gospel) to **the poor**; He has sent Me to announce release to **the captives** and recovery of sight to **the blind**, to send forth as delivered those who are oppressed [who are downtrodden, bruised, crushed, and broken down by calamity]." **Luke 4:18 (AMPC)***

**Connection:** Jesus' mission was to the broken, the captive, the oppressed. His ministry targeted those society had written off.

*"But God shows and clearly proves His [own] love for us by the fact that **while we were still sinners**, Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One) died for us." **Romans 5:8 (AMPC)***

**Connection:** Jesus did not wait for us to become acceptable. He died for us while we were still sinners. His love is not conditional on our improvement.

*"And Jesus said to them, **They who are healthy have no need of a physician**, but those who are sick. I came not to call the righteous ones to repentance, but sinners (those not free from sin)." **Mark 2:17 (AMPC)***

**Connection:** Jesus came for the sick, the broken, the failing. If you recognize your need, you qualify for His help.

### IV. THE TABLE OF GRACE

In the culture of Jesus' day, who you ate with mattered. Meals signified acceptance. The Pharisees ate only with the righteous, the clean, the approved.

Jesus overturned that system. He ate with tax collectors who had betrayed their people for profit. He dined with prostitutes whose lives were marked by shame. He welcomed sinners whose reputations were ruined.

His presence at their tables was not endorsement of sin - it was the offer of transformation. He did not say, "Stay as you are." He said, "Come as you are, and I will make you new."

The Friend of Sinners does not keep His distance. He draws near. He sits down. He shares life. And in that nearness, hearts change.

## **V. LIVING AS THE WELCOMED**

**If You Feel Unworthy:** Jesus specializes in the unworthy. He came for sinners, not the self-righteous.

**If Shame Haunts You:** His friendship removes shame. He does not condemn; He redeems.

**If You Have Failed:** Failure does not disqualify you. It qualifies you for His mercy.

**If Others Have Rejected You:** He welcomes those others reject. His table has room for you.

**If You Are Still Struggling:** He does not demand perfection before relationship. He offers relationship that leads to transformation.

## **VI. ADVENT MEDITATION**

The Friend of Sinners was born among the forgotten. Shepherds - considered religiously unclean - were the first to hear the good news. The King of Heaven announced His arrival to those the religious elite despised.

This is the pattern of Christmas. God does not come to the qualified. He comes to the needy. He does not wait for worthiness. He creates it.

Advent is the story of a God who refused to keep His distance from the mess of humanity. He entered it. He touched it. He redeemed it.

The Friend of Sinners has come. And His table is open.



## DAY 5 - THE HEALER WHO DRAWS NEAR

### Scripture Foundation (AMPC)

#### **Matthew 8:3 AMPC**

*“And He put out His hand and touched him, saying, I am willing; be cleansed. And immediately his leprosy was cured and cleansed.”*

#### **Acts 10:38 AMPC**

*“How God anointed and consecrated Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with strength and ability and power; how He went about doing good and, in particular, curing all who were harassed and oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.”*

#### **Matthew 8:17 AMPC**

*“And thus He fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah, He Himself took our weaknesses and infirmities and bore away our diseases.”*

#### **1 Peter 2:24 AMPC**

*“He personally bore our sins in His own body on the tree... by His wounds you have been healed.”*

**Core Truth:**  
Healing required  
closeness - His  
touch,

### Today's Devotional Reading

The healing ministry of Jesus was never a display of distant, impersonal power. It was a demonstration of compassionate presence. He could have healed with a word from heaven, but

## Understanding the Untouchable

### The Disease

Leprosy (Greek: *lepra*, in burnished gold #B8860B)

A skin disease causing severe disfigurement and social isolation. It was seen as both a physical ailment and a symbol of sin's isolating power.

### The Isolation

Lepers were forced to live outside the community, cut off from all human contact, perhaps for years. They were

required to cry out, "Unclean!" when anyone approached.

He consistently chose to come near. He revealed a God who is not afraid to touch our pain, our sickness, and our deepest wounds.

Consider the leper in Matthew 8. In that culture, *leprosy* was a sentence of complete social isolation. To touch a leper was to become ceremonially unclean.

Yet when this man knelt before Jesus, Jesus did something shocking: He reached out His hand and "touched" him. In that touch, Jesus declared that no condition, no shame, and no stigma could keep Him at a distance. His compassion overcame the prohibition.

## The Foundational Act of Nearness



"And He put out His hand and touched him, saying, I am willing; be cleansed. And immediately his leprosy was cured and cleansed."

Matthew 8:3 (AMPC)

## The Advent of the Healer

The Healer came in human flesh to touch human pain. He could have healed with a word from heaven, but He chose to come near.

Born in a barn, laid in a feeding trough—the Healer entered the brokenness of the world. He did not send healing from a distance.

He brought it in person. Advent declares that God's solution to human suffering is His presence.



Matthew tells us that Jesus fulfilled Isaiah's prophecy: "He Himself took our weaknesses and infirmities and *bore away our diseases*." Just as He bore our sins, He took our sicknesses upon Himself. Healing isn't a footnote to salvation; it is a direct consequence of the same atoning act. Peter confirms this

when he writes, "By His *wounds* you have been healed." The Greek word for wounds, *mōlōpi*, refers to a bruise, a welt, a wound from a blow. Every stripe on His back purchased our wholeness—spirit, soul, and body. The cross purchased our full redemption.

The Healer was born into the brokenness of the world, laid in a feeding trough. The hands that would

## Why This Matters Today



### Point 1: Healing is Personal.

God is not a remote force; He is a person who enters our specific pain with tailored compassion.



### Point 2: God Meets Us Where We Are.

He does not wait for us to become clean or worthy. He steps into our mess to bring restoration.



### Point 3: Compassion Releases Restoration.

Jesus was "moved with compassion" before He healed. His love is the catalyst for His power.

## Living in His Healing

**When Sick:** Come to the Healer. His compassion has not changed. His response is still, "I am willing."

**When Hopeless:** Remember that by His wounds you have been healed. The work is finished; healing has been purchased.

**When Isolated by Shame or Pain:** Remember the leper. There is no condition that repels Him. He specializes in touching the untouchable.



one day touch the leper and open blind eyes were once the tiny hands of an infant. This is the God who draws near to restore, and His healing touch was always an act of humble service, revealing the heart of the Servant King.

## Reflection & Application

Jesus is still the Healer who draws near. He invites us to bring our sickness—physical, emotional, and spiritual—to Him. His response to the leper, "I am willing," is His response to us today. We can approach Him with our needs, confident in His compassion and in the finished work of the cross where our healing was purchased.

- Where do you need the Healer's touch today—physically, emotionally, or spiritually?
- How does the truth "By His wounds you have been healed" change your perspective on sickness and pain?
- How can you approach Jesus with the same faith as the leper, believing He is both able and willing to heal?

*Lord Jesus, our Healer, thank you for your willingness to touch our pain. We bring our sickness and brokenness to you today, believing in your compassion and in the power of your sacrifice. By your wounds, we declare that we are healed. Amen.*

Where do you need God's healing touch today?



## Taking Our Infirmities

Jesus's healing ministry fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah, revealing a Savior who does not simply fix problems but carries them on Himself.

**"He Himself took our weaknesses and infirmities and bore away our diseases."**

Matthew 8:17 (AMPC)





Day 5

## The Healer Who Draws Near

### A Ministry of Doing Good

“How God anointed and consecrated Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with strength and ability and power; how He went about doing good and, in particular, all who were harassed and oppressed by the power of the devil, for God was with Him.”

Acts 10:38 (AMPC)



### Healing required closeness—His touch, compassion, and presence.

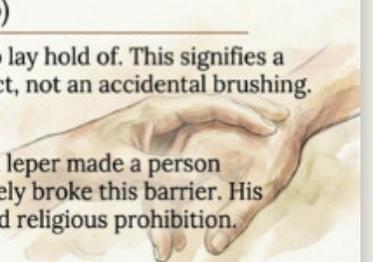
Jesus reveals a God who does not heal from a distance, but enters our world to restore us.

### The Meaning Within the Touch

ἥψατο  
(hēpsato)

**Definition:** To fasten to, to cling to, to lay hold of. This signifies a deliberate, intentional physical contact, not an accidental brushing.

**Key Insight:** In Jewish law, touching a leper made a person ceremonially unclean. Jesus deliberately broke this barrier. His compassion overcame the cultural and religious prohibition.



## God's power is expressed through love, not distance.

The touch was not merely a means to a miracle; it was the message itself. It declared that there is no condition, no shame, and no stigma that can keep God at distance. He is willing to touch what others avoid.



### The Great Exchange

## ἔλαβεν καὶ ἐβάστασεν

(elaben kai ebastasan)

Definition: To take up, to carry, to bear as a burden. This is the language of substitutionary bearing—He took what was ours and carried it as His own.

Key Insight: Healing flows from the same sacrifice as salvation. Christ's atonement covers the whole person—spirit, soul, and body.



## The Price of Our Wholeness



“He personally bore our sins in His own body on the tree... by His wounds you have been healed.”

1 Peter 2:24 (AMPC)

### The Purpose in the Pain

## τῷ μώλωπι

(tō mōlōpi)

Definition: A bruise, a welt, a wound from a blow. This refers to the specific physical suffering Christ endured—the scourging, the beating, the crucifixion.

Key Insight: Every wound Christ bore had a redemptive purpose. His suffering was not meaningless; it purchased the wholeness you need.

# The Healer Who Draws Near

## THE NATURE OF HIS HEALING



### He Heals Through Presence, Not Distance

Jesus's ministry was defined by touch, compassion, and entering into people's pain.

*"He put out His hand and touched him, saying, I am willing; be cleansed."*

Matthew 8:3 (AMPC)



### He Touched the Untouchable

By touching a leper, Jesus intentionally broke cultural laws, showing compassion overcomes every barrier.



## THE SOURCE OF OUR HEALING

### He Bore Our Sicknesses Himself

His healing involved personally taking our weaknesses and diseases upon Himself as a substitute.



*"By His wounds you have been healed."*

1 Peter 2:24 (AMPC)

### The Healer Has Come

Advent reminds us that God's solution to suffering is His presence; He came in human flesh to touch human pain.

# 12 Days of Emmanuel

## God With Us - Complete Study Guide

### DAY 5: The Healer Who Draws Near - In-Depth Study



**Core Truth:** Healing required closeness - His touch, compassion, presence.

#### I. FOUNDATION VERSES

"And He reached out His hand and **touched him**, saying, *I am willing; be cleansed by being cured. And instantly his **leprosy** was cured and cleansed.*" **Matthew 8:3 (AMPC)**

"How God **anointed** and **consecrated** Jesus of Nazareth with the [Holy] Spirit and with strength and ability and power; how He went about doing good and, in particular, **curing all who were harassed and oppressed by [the power of] the devil**, for God was with Him." **Acts 10:38 (AMPC)**

"And thus He fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah, **He Himself took [in order to carry away] our weaknesses and infirmities and bore away our diseases.**" **Matthew 8:17 (AMPC)**

"He personally bore our sins in His [own] body on the tree [as on an altar and offered Himself on it], that we might die (cease to exist) to sin and live to righteousness. **By His wounds you have been healed.**" **1 Peter 2:24 (AMPC)**

#### II. WORD STUDIES

##### A. "Touched" (Greek: *hēpsato* - ἥψατο, Strong's G680)

**Meaning:** To fasten to, to cling to, to lay hold of. This is deliberate physical contact, not accidental brushing.

**Biblical Use:** In Jewish law, touching a leper made you ceremonially unclean. Jesus deliberately broke that barrier. He touched the untouchable. His compassion overcame the cultural prohibition.

**Application:** There is no condition, no shame, no stigma that keeps Jesus at a distance. He is willing to touch what others avoid. Nothing about you repels Him.

##### B. "Leprosy" (Greek: *lepra* - λέπρα, Strong's G3014)

**Meaning:** A skin disease that caused severe disfigurement and social isolation. Lepers were forced to live outside the community, crying "Unclean!" when anyone approached.

**Biblical Use:** Leprosy was both a physical disease and a symbol of sin's isolating power. The leper Jesus touched had been cut off from human contact, perhaps for years.

**Application:** Whatever has isolated you - shame, failure, pain - Jesus is willing to enter it. He heals not just the body but the isolation sin creates.

### **C. "Bore Away Our Diseases" (Greek: *elaben kai ebastasan* - ἔλαβεν καὶ ἐβάστασεν, Strong's G2983 + G941)**

**Meaning:** To take up, to carry, to bear as a burden. This is substitutionary bearing - He took what was ours and made it His.

**Biblical Use:** Matthew quotes Isaiah 53 to show that healing was part of Christ's atoning work. Just as He bore our sins, He bore our sicknesses.

**Application:** Healing is not a separate work from salvation. It flows from the same sacrifice. Christ's atonement covers the whole person - spirit, soul, and body.

### **D. "By His Wounds" (Greek: *tō mōlōpi* - τῷ μώλωπι, Strong's G3468)**

**Meaning:** A bruise, a welt, a wound from a blow. This refers to the physical suffering Christ endured - the scourging, the beating, the crucifixion.

**Biblical Use:** Peter connects Christ's physical suffering to our healing. The stripes on His back purchased our wholeness.

**Application:** Every wound Christ bore had purpose. His suffering was not meaningless; it was redemptive. What He suffered purchased what you need.

## **III. CROSS-REFERENCES**

### **Theme: Christ's Healing Ministry**

*"And great throngs came to Him, bringing with them the lame, the maimed, the blind, the dumb, and many others, and they put them down at His feet; and **He cured them.**" Matthew 15:30 (AMPC)*

**Connection:** Jesus healed consistently, compassionately, thoroughly. Healing was central to His ministry, not peripheral.

*"But if it is by the Spirit of God that I drive out the demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you [before you expected it]." Matthew 12:28 (AMPC)*

**Connection:** Healing and deliverance demonstrate the arrival of God's kingdom. Where Jesus is, the kingdom breaks in - and sickness flees.

*"For I will restore health to you, and I will heal your wounds, says the Lord." Jeremiah 30:17 (AMPC)*

**Connection:** God's nature is to heal. This is not a New Testament innovation; it is His covenant character revealed throughout Scripture.

*"Who forgives [every one of] all your iniquities, Who heals [each one of] all your diseases." Psalm 103:3 (AMPC)*

**Connection:** Forgiveness and healing are linked. God deals with both sin and sickness. Both are part of His redemptive work.

## **IV. THE COMPASSIONATE HEALER**

Jesus did not heal to prove His power. He healed because He felt compassion. When He saw the sick, the lame, the blind, He was moved with pity. Their suffering touched Him.

He did not heal from a distance as a show of authority. He touched the leper. He took the blind man by the hand. He lifted Peter's mother-in-law from her sickbed. Healing required nearness.

His healing was not selective. He healed all who came to Him. Rich and poor. Jew and Gentile. The desperate and the despairing. He turned no one away.

## **V. LIVING IN HEALING**

**When Sick:** Come to the Healer. His compassion has not changed. His willingness is still "I am willing."

**When Hopeless:** Remember that by His wounds you have been healed. The work is finished. Healing is purchased.

**When Others Are Sick:** Pray in faith. The same Spirit that anointed Jesus to heal dwells in you.

**When Healing Delays:** Trust His goodness. Delay is not denial. His timing is perfect.

**When Doctors Say No:** God is not limited by medical prognosis. He is the God who does the impossible.

## **VI. ADVENT MEDITATION**

The Healer came in human flesh to touch human pain. He could have healed with a word from heaven, but He chose to come near.

Born in a barn, wrapped in rags, laid in a feeding trough - the Healer entered the brokenness of the world. He did not send healing from a distance. He brought it in person.

Advent declares that God's solution to human suffering is presence. The Healer does not stand far off. He draws near. He touches. He cures. He carries.

The hands that touched the leper, opened blind eyes, and raised the dead were once the hands of an infant in Mary's arms. The Healer has come. And He is near.



## DAY 6 - THE SERVANT KING

### Scripture Foundation (AMPC)

#### **Mark 10:45 AMPC**

*“For even the Son of Man came not to have service rendered to Him, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.”*

#### **John 13:5 AMPC**

*“Then He poured water into the washbasin and began to wash the disciples’ feet and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded.”*

#### **Philippians 2:5–7 AMPC**

*“Let this same attitude and purpose and mind be in you which was in Christ Jesus... Who, although being essentially one with God... stripped Himself [of privileges]... taking the form of a servant.”*

#### **Matthew 20:28 AMPC**

*“Just as the Son of Man came not to be waited on but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.”*

**Core Truth: He leads by stooping low.**

### Today's Devotional Reading

In Jesus, we meet the ultimate paradox: a King who kneels. This is the upside-down economy of heaven, where the King's coronation is marked not by a crown of gold but by a towel of service.



## The Shock of the Towel

Then He poured water into the washbasin and began to **wash the disciples' feet** and to wipe them with the [servant's] **towel** with which He was girded.  
— John 13:5 (AMPC)

In the first-century world, foot washing was the task of the lowest non-Jewish slave in a household. It was a task no one else wanted. For the Master and Lord to kneel and perform this demeaning act was a shocking violation of every cultural norm, powerfully demonstrating that no act of service is beneath a true leader.

His throne was not in a palace but on the dusty floor at the feet of His followers. He completely overturns every earthly notion of greatness, redefining leadership not as power over others, but as humble service to them.

On the night before His crucifixion, Majesty wrapped a towel around His waist and began to "wash the disciples' feet"—the task of the lowest slave. Jesus's mission statement was clear: "The Son of Man came not to be

served, but to serve." He came to give His life as a *ransom*—a redemption price paid to free a slave. His entire life was an act of service, culminating in the ultimate sacrifice.

The Apostle Paul urges us to have the same mind as Christ, who, though eternally equal with God, "stripped Himself" of His privileges.

The Greek word *ekenōsen* means He emptied Himself, voluntarily laying aside His divine rights and status to



## A Kingship That Overturns the World

Jesus completely inverts worldly power structures and redefines greatness. He rules not through force and domination, but through divine humility and sacrificial love. His service is not weakness; it is the ultimate expression of strength and authority.

**He leads by stooping low.**

take the form of a servant.

This is how the King chose to come to us—low, vulnerable, and approachable. He did not demand that we climb to His level; He descended to ours, born in a stable and laid in a manger. His life showed that the way up in God's kingdom is down, and His actions were always accompanied by the profound words of the Teacher who walked among us.

## The Theology of Humility: *Ekenōsen*

"Let this same attitude and purpose and [humble] mind be in you which was in Christ Jesus... Who, although being essentially one with God... **stripped Himself** [of all privileges and rightful dignity], so as to assume the guise of a servant..."  
— Philippians 2:5-7 (AMPC)

**Stripped Himself** (*heauton ekenōsen*): Literally "He emptied Himself." This is the voluntary relinquishment of rights, status, and privilege. Christ did not cease to be God, but He laid aside the independent use of His divine attributes. He had every right to glory but chose the form of a slave.



## Reflection & Application

To follow the Servant King is to adopt His mindset. It means choosing to lay down our rights for the good of others and measuring our greatness by how we serve. This challenges our natural desire for status, recognition, and being served. We are called to look for the basin and the towel in our own

"For even the Son of Man came not to have service **rendered to Him**, but to serve, and to give His life as a **ransom for many**."  
— Mark 10:45 AMPC

True greatness is not found in being served, but in service. Majesty is revealed in humility, and true power lifts others up.

relationships and communities.

- In what relationship or situation can you choose to "stoop low" and serve today?
- How does remembering the King who washed feet challenge your own desire for status or recognition?
- What rights or privileges might God be asking you to lay aside for the sake of serving someone else?

### Why This Matters Today

- God overturns every earthly notion of greatness.
- Our value is not in status, but in love expressed through service.
- We are called to lift others, not exalt ourselves.

*How might you reflect the humble heart of the King this week?*

*Lord Jesus, Servant King, forgive me for my pride and my desire to be served. Give me Your humble heart and a servant's spirit. Show me where I can wash the feet of those around me today, reflecting Your incredible love and humility. Amen.*

## 12 Days of Emmanuel, Day 6: The Servant King

The King who leads by stooping low.



**“For even the Son of Man came not to have service rendered to Him, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.”**  
Mark 10:45 (AMPC)

### With-Us Emphasis

-  Kneels to serve
-  Washes human feet
-  Gives His life for us

### Core Revelation

Jesus overturns earthly notions of greatness by choosing humility over display and service over status. His leadership is expressed through love.

### Why This Matters Today

-  True greatness is measured by service, not status.
-  Our humility can heal and transform relationships.
-  We reveal God's heart when we choose to serve others.

### Reflection Prompt

How can I demonstrate the humility of the Servant King today?

**The greatest One became the least, so we could be lifted into eternal love.**



Day 6

## The Servant King

He leads by **stooping** low.

### The Mission: To Serve and to Ransom

“For even the Son of Man came not to have service rendered to Him, but to **serve**, and to **give His life as a ransom** for many.”

**Serve** (*diakonēsai*): To wait at table, to minister, to attend to the needs of another. The work of a servant, not a master.

— Mark 10:45 (AMPC)



**Ransom** (*lytron*): The price paid to release a slave or prisoner. A substitutionary payment. Freedom is purchased, not earned.



### The Shepherd, the King, the Lamb...



...are all the same Person. Each name is another brushstroke revealing the masterpiece of **Emmanuel God With Us**. He is the Shepherd who guides us, the King who models for us, and the Lamb who died for us. His presence is gentle, humble, and sacrificial. And because He is the Resurrection and the Life, His victory becomes our victory.

### The Upside-Down Kingdom

In the Kingdom of God, the path to honor is through humility. True authority is not measured by who serves you, but by how you serve others.

World's Model: Power Over

Christ's Model: Greatness Through Service



“Whoever wishes to be great exalts himself.”



“Whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant.” (Matthew 20:26)

### Living the Inversion



**True authority is not for self-exaltation, but for blessing and lifting others.** It is measured by how low you will stoop to lift another up.



**Love in action is service.** It is the practical, tangible expression of a humble heart that puts others' needs before its own.



**Leadership in Christ's kingdom looks like kneeling with a towel,** not standing on a pedestal demanding honor.

“For God so greatly loved and dearly prized the world that He [even] gave up His only begotten (unique) Son, so that whoever believes in (trusts in, clings to, relies on) Him shall not perish (come to destruction, be lost) but have eternal (everlasting) life.” — John 3:16 AMPC

— John 3:16 AMPC

**Emmanuel**  
God With Us. Forever.

### The Invitation to Serve

1. How might you reflect Christ's humility today?

2. Where in your world—your home, your workplace, your community—is there an opportunity to pick up the basin and the towel?

3. What 'right' or privilege can you lay aside for the good of another?



# 12 Days of Emmanuel

## God With Us - Complete Study Guide

### DAY 6: The Servant King - In-Depth Study

**Core Truth:** He leads by stooping low.



#### I. FOUNDATION VERSES

*"For even the Son of Man came not to have service rendered to Him, but to **serve**, and to **give His life as a ransom** for (instead of) many." **Mark 10:45 (AMPC)***

*"Then He poured water into the washbasin and began to **wash the disciples' feet** and to wipe them with the [servant's] towel with which He was girded." **John 13:5 (AMPC)***

*"Let this same attitude and purpose and [humble] mind be in you which was in Christ Jesus: [Let Him be your example in humility:] Who, although being essentially one with God and in the form of God [possessing the fullness of the attributes which make God God], did not think this equality with God was a thing to be eagerly grasped or retained, But **stripped Himself [of all privileges and rightful dignity]**, so as to assume the guise of a servant (slave), in that He became like men and was born a human being." **Philippians 2:5-7 (AMPC)***

#### II. WORD STUDIES

##### A. "Serve" (Greek: *diakonēσαι* - διακονῆσαι, Strong's G1247)

**Meaning:** To wait at table, to minister to, to attend to the needs of another. This is the work of a servant, not a master.

**Biblical Use:** Jesus reverses all expectations of kingship. Kings are served; Jesus came to serve. Kings command; Jesus ministers. Kings receive; Jesus gives.

**Application:** Following Jesus means embracing His servant heart. Greatness in God's kingdom is measured by how you serve, not how you are served.

##### B. "Ransom" (Greek: *lytron* - λύτρον, Strong's G3083)

**Meaning:** The price paid to release a slave or prisoner. This is a redemption price, a substitutionary payment.

**Biblical Use:** Jesus gave His life as payment to free us from slavery to sin. We were captives; He bought our freedom with His blood.

**Application:** You are not saved by your works or worth. You are ransomed by His sacrifice. Freedom is purchased, not earned.

##### C. "Stripped Himself" (Greek: *heauton ekenōsen* - ἐαυτὸν ἐκένωσεν, Strong's G1438 + G2758)

**Meaning:** To empty, to make of no reputation, to lay aside privileges. This is voluntary relinquishment of rights and status.

**Biblical Use:** Christ did not lose His deity when He became human, but He laid aside the independent use of His divine attributes. He chose limitation for our sake.

**Application:** Humility is choosing to lay down your rights for the good of others. Christ is the ultimate model. He had every right to glory but chose servanthood.

**D. "Wash the Disciples' Feet" (Greek: *niptein tous podas* - νίπτειν τοὺς πόδας, Strong's G3538 + G4228)**

**Meaning:** To wash, to cleanse. Foot washing was the task of the lowest servant in a household.

**Biblical Use:** On the night before His crucifixion, Jesus took the towel and basin and washed the dirty feet of His disciples. The King performed the slave's task.

**Application:** No task is beneath you if it serves others. Jesus demonstrated that true leadership serves, even in the most humble ways.

### III. CROSS-REFERENCES

**Theme: Humility and Service**

*"But Jesus called them to [Him] and said, You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men hold them in subjection [tyrannizing over them]. **Not so shall it be among you; but whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant.**" Matthew 20:25-26 (AMPC)*

**Connection:** Jesus redefines greatness. In His kingdom, the way up is down. The path to honor is service.

*"Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but **emptied himself**, by taking the form of a servant." Philippians 2:5-7 (ESV concept via AMPC)*

**Connection:** The mind of Christ is the servant mind. He had every reason to demand honor but chose to give it away.

*"And whoever **exalts himself** [whoever is an exhibitionist, aggressively promoting himself] shall be **humbled** (brought low), and whoever **humbles himself** [whoever has a modest opinion of himself and behaves accordingly] shall be **raised to honor.**" Matthew 23:12 (AMPC)*

**Connection:** God's economy is upside down from the world's. Pride leads to humiliation; humility leads to honor.

*"The Son of Man came not to be waited on but to **serve.**" Matthew 20:28 (AMPC)*

**Connection:** This is the mission statement of Jesus. He came to serve. His entire life was oriented toward others.

### IV. THE KING WHO KNEELS

The image of Jesus washing feet is shocking. The disciples were embarrassed. Peter objected. It violated every cultural norm.

But Jesus insisted. He, the Master and Lord, took the posture of a slave. He touched dirty feet. He performed the task no one else wanted.

This is the Servant King. He does not rule by force but by love. He does not demand honor; He earns it through sacrifice. He does not sit on a throne and bark orders; He kneels and serves.

His kingdom is built on this foundation: the greatest is the one who serves. Power is measured by how much you give, not how much you take. Leadership is defined by how low you will stoop to lift another.

## **V. LIVING AS SERVANT LEADERS**

**In Relationships:** Serve one another. Put others' needs before your own (Philippians 2:3-4).

**In the Church:** Use your gifts to build up, not to gain status (1 Peter 4:10).

**In the World:** Let your service point to the Servant King. Love displayed through humble acts opens hearts.

**In Pride:** Remember the King who washed feet. If He served, who are you to demand honor?

**In Conflict:** The way to peace is humility. Lower yourself, and God will lift you up (James 4:10).

## **VI. ADVENT MEDITATION**

The Servant King arrived in humility. Born in a stable. Laid in a manger. Wrapped in rags. Announced to shepherds.

No royal procession. No palace. No pomp. Just a baby, helpless and dependent, needing to be fed and cared for.

This is how the King chose to come - low, vulnerable, approachable. He did not demand we climb to His level. He descended to ours.

Advent is the celebration of divine humility. The King became a servant. The Master washed feet. The Creator submitted to His creation.

This is the wonder of Christmas. The greatest became the least so the least could become great.



## DAY 7 - THE TEACHER WHO WALKED WITH US

### Scripture Foundation (AMPC)

#### **John 1:38–39 AMPC**

*“They said to Him, Rabbi (which translated means Teacher), where are You staying? He said to them, Come and see.”*

#### **Matthew 7:29 AMPC**

*“For He taught them as One Who had authority, and not as the scribes.”*

#### **Luke 24:27 AMPC**

*“Then beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, He went on explaining and interpreting to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning and referring to Himself.”*

#### **Mark 6:34 AMPC**

*“He was moved with compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and He began to teach them many things.”*

**Core Truth: His teaching came through shared life.**

### Today's Devotional Reading

Jesus's method of teaching was revolutionary. While He was recognized as a *Rabbi*, a respected teacher, He did not confine His instruction to a synagogue. His primary invitation was simply, "Come and see." He taught through relationship, inviting His disciples into His daily life. They

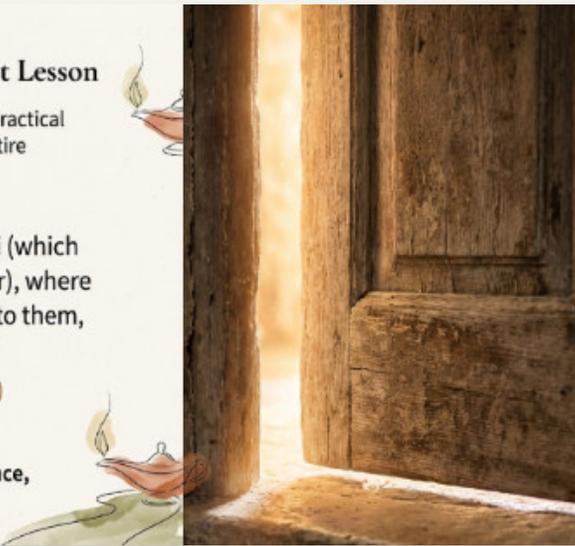
## The Invitation Was the First Lesson

When disciples asked the "Rabbi" a practical question, His answer revealed His entire teaching philosophy.

"They said to Him, Rabbi (which translated means Teacher), where are You staying? He said to them, **Come and see.**"

John 1:38-39 (AMPC)

Truth is discovered through presence, not distance.



learned as they walked and ate with Him. His lessons were woven into miracles and meals. This is discipleship: not just information transfer, but life transformation through shared experience.

His teaching was marked by two key qualities: authority and compassion. Unlike the scribes who quoted other rabbis, Jesus spoke with

inherent *authority* (*exousia*). His words carried divine weight and awakened hearts. But this authority was not harsh; it was delivered with profound *compassion*. He saw the crowds as "sheep without a shepherd" — confused and vulnerable — and His heart was moved to teach them. His instruction always flowed from love.

## A Classroom Without Walls

Unlike rabbis who taught primarily in synagogues, Jesus's classroom was life itself. He taught everywhere, weaving lessons into the fabric of the everyday.



Key Points: On hillsides



By the sea



In homes



While walking on the road

Core Idea: Learning from Jesus was not an academic exercise; it was a relational journey.

## Discipleship: Transformation Through Relationship

Jesus did not establish a formal school; He invited people to walk with Him. His disciples learned by observing His life in action.



They saw how He:

- Responded to criticism.

- Prayed in solitude.



- Spoke to the hurting.

- Handled immense pressure.



Core Principle: This is not information transfer. It is life transformation.

The Teacher who walks with us has walked the path Himself. He taught about faith while in a storm and about forgiveness while on the cross. He shaped His followers not only by what He said, but by who He was and how He lived in their midst.

His teaching ministry on earth was a foreshadowing of His ongoing ministry for us in heaven, where He now stands as our eternal Intercessor.

## Reflection & Application

Learning from Jesus is a relational pursuit, not just an academic one. He invites us to "come and see" what He is doing in our daily lives, to walk with Him, ask Him questions, and observe His

character. This requires us to slow down, listen, and create space for the Teacher to speak into our circumstances.

- How can you better "come and see" what Jesus is doing in your life, rather than just reading about Him?
- In what area do you need to hear the compassionate, authoritative voice of your Teacher today?
- What is one practical way you can create more space to "walk with" Jesus this week?

*Holy Spirit, my Teacher, thank you for making Jesus known to me. Open my heart to learn from Him not just with my mind, but with my whole life. Illuminate His words and His ways, that I might be transformed more into His likeness. Amen.*

### The Invitation Still Stands

The call to "come and see" echoes in Jesus's invitation to take on His yoke. Learning from Him is the pathway to true soul-rest.

"Take My yoke upon you and learn of Me, for I am gentle (meek) and humble (lowly) in heart, and you will find rest (relief and ease and refreshment and recreation and blessed quiet) for your souls."

**Matthew 11:29 (AMPC)**

Key Insight: His instruction does not burden; it lightens and frees.



## DAY 7: The Teacher Who Walked With Us

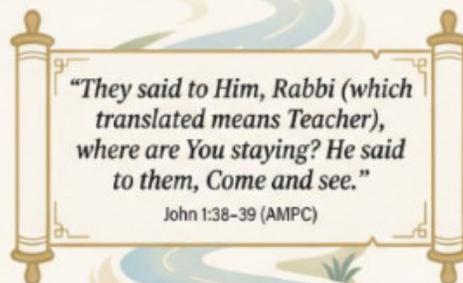
His instruction came through shared life, not distant lectures.

To walk with Jesus is to be continually taught by love.



### Core Revelation

Jesus taught not with lectures, but with encounters. He revealed truth through His presence, shaping disciples by how He lived among them.



### With-Us Emphasis

- ! Taught as He walked.
- 🛏 Revealed truth through presence.
- 🏠 Lived among His disciples.

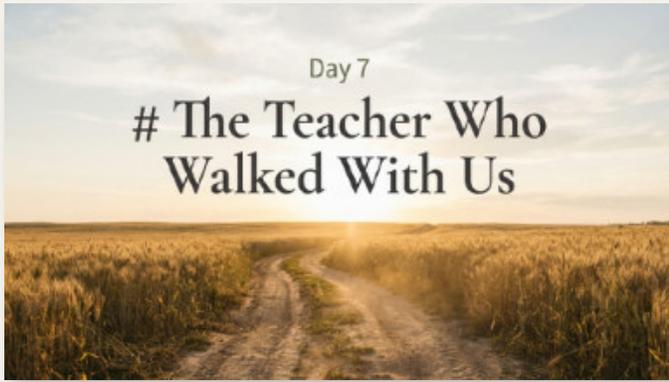


### Why This Matters Today

- 💬 Learning from Him is relational, not just informational.
- 👤 His character is the curriculum we observe and follow.
- 🕊 He still teaches us step-by-step through His Spirit.



How are you inviting the Teacher to "come and see" your daily life?



Day 7

# # The Teacher Who Walked With Us

## The Curriculum Was Himself

On the road to Emmaus, Jesus demonstrated the ultimate theme of His teaching. He positioned Himself as the focal point of God's entire redemptive story.



"Then beginning with Moses and [throughout] all the Prophets, He went on explaining and interpreting to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning and referring to Himself."

Luke 24:27 (AMPC)

## He Taught With Inherent Authority

The crowds immediately recognized a fundamental difference in Jesus's teaching. It carried an intrinsic weight and power that was self-evident.

"For He was teaching them as One Who had [and was] authority, and not as the scribes."

Matthew 7:29 (AMPC)



## The Nature of His Authority (*Exousia*)

### Main Body

The Greek word *exousia* signifies power and right that comes from one's inherent being, not from delegated permission.

### Analysis:



#### The Scribes

Quoted other esteemed rabbis as the basis for their teaching.



#### Jesus

Spoke from His own authority. He didn't just interpret truth; He was the source of it, saying, "You have heard it said... but I say to you."

### Conclusion

His words carried power because of who He was.

## His Teaching Flowed From Compassion

Jesus wasn't motivated by a desire to display knowledge. He was moved by the deep needs of the people He saw.

"He had compassion (pity and deep sympathy) for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and He began to teach them many things."

Mark 6:34 (AMPC)



## The Depth of His Compassion (*Esplagchnisthē*)



The Greek term *esplagchnisthē* goes beyond simple pity. It means "to be moved in the inward parts"—a visceral, emotional response.

### Insight:

- It is not detached sympathy.
- He saw the crowds as confused, wandering, and vulnerable.
- His heart was moved, and His response was to teach.

**Conclusion:** Jesus teaches because He cares.



## The Teacher Who First Became a Student

The Teacher who walks with us has walked the path Himself. He did not speak from an ivory tower but from lived experience. His teaching is grounded in the reality of the human journey.

### Key Truths

- He "grew in wisdom" (Luke 2:52).
- He "learned obedience through suffering" (Hebrews 5:8).
- He knows the struggle of growth because He experienced it.

He does not demand what He has not first demonstrated.

## The Teacher's Ongoing Presence

Jesus promised that His teaching ministry would not end. He sent the Holy Spirit to continue instructing His followers from within.

"But the Comforter (Counselor, Helper, Intercessor, Advocate, Strengtheners, Standby), the Holy Spirit... He will teach you all things. And He will cause you to recall... everything I have told you."

John 14:26 (AMPC)



# 12 Days of Emmanuel

## God With Us - Complete Study Guide

### DAY 7: The Teacher Who Walked With Us - In-Depth Study



**Core Truth:** His teaching came through shared life.

#### I. FOUNDATION VERSES

"They said to Him, **Rabbi** (which translated means Teacher), where are You staying (lodging)? He said to them, **Come and see**. So they went and saw where He was staying, and they remained with Him that day." **John 1:38-39 (AMPC)**

"For He was teaching them as **One Who had [and was] authority**, and not as the scribes." **Matthew 7:29 (AMPC)**

"Then beginning with Moses and [throughout] all the Prophets, He went on **explaining and interpreting** to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning and referring to Himself." **Luke 24:27 (AMPC)**

"As He landed, He saw a great throng of people, and **He had compassion** (pity and deep sympathy) for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and **He began to teach them many things**." **Mark 6:34 (AMPC)**

#### II. WORD STUDIES

##### A. "Rabbi" (Aramaic/Hebrew: *rabbi* - רַבִּי, Strong's H7227 concept)

**Meaning:** My teacher, my master. A term of respect for religious teachers who had students (disciples) learning from them.

**Biblical Use:** Jesus was recognized as a rabbi by His contemporaries. But unlike other rabbis who taught in synagogues, Jesus taught everywhere - on hillsides, by the sea, in homes, while walking.

**Application:** Jesus is your Teacher. Not just someone who gives information, but someone who shapes you through relationship. Learning from Him is not academic; it is relational.

##### B. "Come and See" (Greek: *erchesthe kai idete* - ἔρχεσθε καὶ ἴδετε, Strong's G2064 + G3708)

**Meaning:** Come here and look, perceive, experience. This is an invitation to personal encounter, not classroom lecture.

**Biblical Use:** When asked where He stayed, Jesus did not give an address. He said, "Come and see." Truth is discovered through presence, not distance.

**Application:** Following Jesus is not about mastering doctrine from afar. It is about walking with Him, seeing where He stays, learning through shared life.

### C. "Authority" (Greek: *exousia* - ἐξουσία, Strong's G1849)

**Meaning:** Power, right, privilege, capability. This is the authority that comes from inherent right, not delegated permission.

**Biblical Use:** The scribes quoted other rabbis. Jesus spoke with His own authority. He said, "You have heard it said... but I say to you." His words carried weight because they came from who He was.

**Application:** The Word of God is not mere human wisdom. It carries divine authority. When Jesus speaks, things change. His words have power.

### D. "Compassion" (Greek: *esplagchnisthē* - ἐσπλαγχνίσθη, Strong's G4697)

**Meaning:** To be moved in the inward parts, to feel deeply, to be moved with pity. This is visceral emotional response, not detached sympathy.

**Biblical Use:** Jesus taught from compassion. He saw the crowds like sheep without a shepherd - confused, wandering, vulnerable - and His heart was moved. So He taught them.

**Application:** Jesus does not teach to show off His knowledge. He teaches because He cares. His instruction flows from love.

## III. CROSS-REFERENCES

### Theme: Christ the Teacher

*"The crowds were astonished and overwhelmed with bewildered wonder at His teaching, **for He was teaching as One Who had authority** (power), and not as [did] their scribes."* **Matthew 7:28-29 (AMPC)**

**Connection:** Jesus' authority was self-evident. People recognized that His teaching was different - it carried weight, truth, and power.

*"But the Comforter (Counselor, Helper, Intercessor, Advocate, Strengthener, Standby), the Holy Spirit, Whom the Father will send in My name [in My place, to represent Me and act on My behalf], **He will teach you all things**. And He will cause you to recall (will remind you of, bring to your remembrance) everything I have told you."* **John 14:26 (AMPC)**

**Connection:** Jesus still teaches through His Spirit. The Holy Spirit brings His words to remembrance and continues to instruct us.

*"Take My yoke upon you and **learn of Me**, for I am gentle (meek) and humble (lowly) in heart, and you will find rest (relief and ease and refreshment and recreation and blessed quiet) for your souls."* **Matthew 11:29 (AMPC)**

**Connection:** Learning from Jesus brings rest. His instruction does not burden; it lightens. His teaching frees.

*"And Jesus went about all Galilee, **teaching** in their synagogues and preaching the good news (Gospel) of the kingdom and healing every disease and every sickness among the people."* **Matthew 4:23 (AMPC)**

**Connection:** Teaching was central to Jesus' ministry. He taught consistently, in varied settings, to all who would listen.

## IV. THE TEACHER WHO WALKS ALONGSIDE

Jesus did not establish a classroom. He invited people to walk with Him. His disciples learned while traveling, eating, observing, questioning.

They saw how He responded to criticism. They watched how He prayed. They heard how He spoke to the hurting. They experienced how He handled pressure. His teaching was woven into daily life.

This is discipleship - not information transfer but life transformation through relationship. Jesus shaped His followers by being with them.

## **V. LIVING AS LEARNERS**

**Stay Close:** You cannot learn from a distance. Walk with Jesus daily through His Word and His Spirit.

**Ask Questions:** The disciples questioned Jesus constantly. He welcomed it. Bring your confusion to Him.

**Observe:** Watch how Jesus responds in Scripture. His character is the curriculum.

**Obey:** Learning without application is not discipleship. Do what He teaches.

**Teach Others:** What you learn from Jesus, pass on (Matthew 28:19-20).

## **VI. ADVENT MEDITATION**

The Teacher came as a baby. He had to learn to walk, to talk, to read. He grew in wisdom (Luke 2:52). He experienced the learning process.

When He began to teach, He did not speak from an ivory tower. He taught from lived experience. He knew hunger, weariness, rejection, joy. His teaching was grounded in reality.

Advent reminds us that the Teacher became a student first. He learned obedience through suffering (Hebrews 5:8). He knows the struggle of growth.

The Teacher who walks with us has walked the path Himself. He does not demand what He has not demonstrated. He teaches from experience, with compassion, and with authority.

## Part III: The Provision of Presence



### DAY 8 - THE INTERCESSOR

#### Scripture Foundation (AMPC)

##### **Hebrews 7:25 AMPC**

*“He is able also to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He is always living to make intercession for them.”*

##### **Romans 8:34 AMPC**

*“Who is there to condemn us?... Christ Jesus Who died... is at the right hand of God... actually pleading as He intercedes for us.”*

##### **1 John 2:1 AMPC**

*“If anyone does sin, we have an Advocate [One Who will intercede for us] with the Father-Jesus Christ the righteous.”*

##### **Hebrews 4:16 AMPC**

*“Let us then fearlessly and confidently and boldly draw near to the throne of grace... that we may find grace to help in good time for every need.”*

**Core Truth: Jesus stands with us and for us forever..**

#### Today's Devotional Reading

The work of Jesus did not end at the empty tomb. After His ascension, He began an eternal ministry that provides profound security for every believer: He is our Intercessor. He stands

## From the Manger to the Throne

The Intercessor was born to die and rise again.

His birth was not the end goal; it was the necessary beginning.



The Child would become the Priest.  
The Savior would become the Advocate.

The story of Advent points forward to the cross, the resurrection, and the throne.

And from that throne, He lives to pray for you. Forever.

before the Father, not as a distant observer, but as our personal representative. The One who died for you now lives forever to pray for you.

The book of Hebrews tells us that Jesus is "always living to make intercession." His prayer is not occasional; it is continuous. This ensures that He is able to "save to the uttermost"—completely, perfectly, and for all time. Your salvation is not fragile

or dependent on your flawless performance; it is secured by His perfect, ongoing work. There is never a moment when you are unrepresented before the throne of God.

When we sin, we have an *Advocate* (*paraklētos* in Greek) with the Father. An advocate is one called alongside to help, a defense attorney who pleads our case. Jesus does not plead our innocence; He points to His

## How His Intercession Sustains You

**When you are weak...**  
His prayers sustain you. Even when your faith wavers, His intercession holds you.



**When you are tempted...**  
He prays for your victory. He who was tempted in all things prays you through temptation.



**When you fail...**  
He does not stop praying for you. Your failure does not end His advocacy.



**When you are accused...**  
Satan may accuse, but Jesus defends. His voice overrules every charge against you.



## Our Advocate with the Father

**The Role:** *paraklētos* (Greek)  
One called alongside to help; a legal defender; a counselor who stands with you in court.



**The Reality:** When we sin, we have a defender before the Father. He does not deny our guilt; He presents His righteousness and covers our failure with His blood.

"But if anyone should sin, we have an Advocate (One Who will intercede for us) with the Father—[it is] Jesus Christ [the all] righteous."  
1 John 2:1 (AMPC)

righteousness and His finished work on the cross. His blood speaks a better word than our failures. When Satan, the accuser, brings a charge, Jesus answers with His scars. This is the prayer that never stops, ensuring not only our standing *before* God but also providing the sustenance we need *from* God, like the Bread of Life.

## Reflection & Application

Living under Christ's intercession gives us unshakable confidence. We do not have to fear condemnation or accusation, because our Advocate is greater. We can face weakness and temptation knowing that Jesus is

## The Prayer That Never Stops

**The Engine:** *pantote zōn* (Greek)  
Living perpetually, continuously, at all times. This describes an uninterrupted, ongoing life.

**The Consequence**  
Because Jesus rose from the dead and lives forever, His intercession *never* stops. He does not pray for you occasionally; he prays for you *always*. There is *never* a moment when you are unrepresented before God.



actively praying for our victory. This truth should embolden our own prayers and quiet our deepest fears.

- How does the reality of Jesus's constant prayer for you change how you face temptation or weakness?
- When you feel accused by your own heart or by the enemy, how can you remind yourself that you have an Advocate with the Father?
- How does this truth give you confidence to approach God's throne of grace today?

*Lord Jesus, my Intercessor, thank you for praying for me when I cannot pray for myself. Thank you for being my Advocate when I fail. I rest in the security of your unending intercession and approach the Father with confidence because of you. Amen.*

## The Scope of His Salvation

**The Meaning:** *sōzein eis to panteles* (Greek)

To save **completely, fully**, to the end. The term implies something all-complete, perfect, entire, lacking nothing.

**The Impact**

Christ's saving work is **total**. It covers every sin, every failure, and every weakness. There is no part of your life His salvation cannot reach or perfect.



## The Throne is Now a Place of Grace

Because we have a High Priest interceding for us, the throne of God is not a place of fear, but of help.



"Let us then fearlessly and confidently and boldly draw near to the throne of grace (the throne of God's unmerited favor to us sinners), that we may receive mercy [for our failures] and find grace to help in good time for every need [appropriate help and well-timed help, coming just when we need it]."

Hebrews 4:16 (AMPC)

## Who is there to condemn us?

Will Christ Jesus (the Messiah), Who died, or rather Who was raised from the dead, Who is at the right hand of God actually pleading as He intercedes for us?

> Romans 8:34 (AMPC)

## A Case Study: The Prayer for Peter

Jesus knew Peter would fail, yet His response was not preemptive judgment, but proactive prayer.

"Simon, Simon (Peter), listen! Satan has asked excessively that [all of] you be given up to him... that he might sift [all of] you like grain, but I have prayed especially for you [Peter], that your [own] faith may not fail; and when you yourself have turned again, strengthen and establish your brethren." Luke 22:31-32 (AMPC)

**The Insight:** His intercession sustained Peter through failure and was the very power that brought him back to strength.

# He Saves to the Uttermost

“Therefore He is able also to **save to the uttermost** (completely, perfectly, finally, and for all time and eternity) those who come to God through Him, since He is **always living to make petition to God and intercede** with Him and intervene for them.”

Hebrews 7:25 (AMPC)

## DAY 8 — THE INTERCESSOR

Christ's Role: Your Eternal Advocate

### THE CORE REVELATION



The One who died for you now lives to pray for you. His advocacy is rooted in understanding, fueled by love, and empowered by His finished work on the cross.



### WITH-US EMPHASIS



He stands with you.



He presents your case.



He supplies your grace.

### WHY THIS MATTERS TODAY



You are never without help.



Your failures do not end His advocacy.



His voice in heaven is your anchor on earth.

### KEY SCRIPTURE

*He is able also to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He is always living to make intercession for them.*

Hebrews 7:25 (AMPC)

### REFLECTION PROMPT

How does knowing Jesus is always praying for you change the way you face today's challenges?

The Intercessor is for you—and His prayers do not fail.

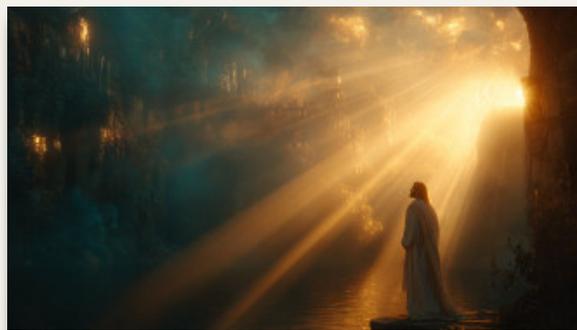


# 12 Days of Emmanuel

## God With Us - Complete Study Guide

### DAY 8: The Intercessor - In-Depth Study

**Core Truth:** Jesus stands with us and for us forever.



#### I. FOUNDATION VERSES

"Therefore He is able also to **save to the uttermost** (completely, perfectly, finally, and for all time and eternity) those who come to God through Him, since He is **always living to make petition to God and intercede with Him and intervene for them.**" **Hebrews 7:25 (AMPC)**

"Who is there to condemn [us]? Will Christ Jesus (the Messiah), Who died, or rather Who was raised from the dead, Who is at the right hand of God **actually pleading as He intercedes for us?**" **Romans 8:34 (AMPC)**

"My little children, I write you these things so that you may not violate God's law and sin. But if anyone should sin, **we have an Advocate (One Who will intercede for us) with the Father**-[it is] Jesus Christ [the all] righteous [upright, just, Who conforms to the Father's will in every purpose, thought, and action]." **1 John 2:1 (AMPC)**

"Let us then fearlessly and confidently and boldly **draw near to the throne of grace** (the throne of God's unmerited favor to us sinners), that we may receive mercy [for our failures] and find grace to help in good time for every need [appropriate help and well-timed help, coming just when we need it]." **Hebrews 4:16 (AMPC)**

#### II. WORD STUDIES

##### A. "Intercede" (Greek: *entynchanein* - ἐντυγχάνειν, Strong's G1793)

**Meaning:** To meet with, to petition on behalf of, to plead for another. This is legal advocacy, standing in as representative.

**Biblical Use:** Jesus stands before the Father on our behalf. He does not plead our innocence; He presents His righteousness. He intercedes based on His finished work.

**Application:** You have a representative in heaven. When accusation comes, Jesus speaks for you. His voice is more powerful than any charge against you.

##### B. "Save to the Uttermost" (Greek: *sōzein eis to panteles* - σώζειν εἰς τὸ παντελές, Strong's G4982 + G3838)

**Meaning:** To save completely, fully, to the end. *Panteles* means all-complete, perfect, entire, lacking nothing.

**Biblical Use:** Christ's saving work is total. It covers every sin, every failure, every weakness. There is no part of your life His salvation cannot reach.

**Application:** You are not partially saved, waiting to see if you make it. You are completely saved by His complete work. His intercession guarantees your security.

**C. "Advocate" (Greek: *paraklētos* - παράκλητος, Strong's G3875)**

**Meaning:** One called alongside to help, a legal defender, a counselor. This is someone who stands with you in court.

**Biblical Use:** Jesus is called our Advocate - the One who defends us before the Father when we sin. He does not deny our guilt; He covers it with His blood.

**Application:** When you fail, you do not lose your defender. Jesus remains your Advocate. Confession brings His intercession, not condemnation.

**D. "Always Living" (Greek: *pantote zōn* - πάντοτε ζῶν, Strong's G3842 + G2198)**

**Meaning:** Living perpetually, continuously, at all times. This is uninterrupted, ongoing life.

**Biblical Use:** Because Jesus rose from the dead and lives forever, His intercession never stops. He does not pray for you occasionally; He prays for you always.

**Application:** There is never a moment when you are unrepresented before God. Jesus is always advocating, always interceding, always standing for you.

### III. CROSS-REFERENCES

**Theme: Christ's Intercession**

*"But He holds His priesthood unchangeably, because He lives on forever. Therefore He is able also to save to the uttermost (completely, perfectly, finally, and for all time and eternity) those who come to God through Him, since He is **always living to make petition to God and intercede with Him and intervene for them.**" Hebrews 7:24-25 (AMPC)*

**Connection:** Jesus' priesthood is permanent. Unlike the Old Testament priests who died and were replaced, Jesus lives forever to intercede.

*"The Spirit Himself [thus] testifies together with our own spirit, [assuring us] that we are children of God." Romans 8:16 (AMPC)*

**Connection:** The Spirit and the Son both testify on our behalf. We have dual advocacy - Jesus in heaven, the Spirit within.

*"I do not pray for the world, but I do pray **for those You have given Me** [for they belong to You]." John 17:9 (AMPC)*

**Connection:** Jesus prays specifically for His own. His intercession is personal, focused, effective.

*"Simon, Simon (Peter), listen! Satan has asked excessively that [all of] you be given up to him [out of the power and keeping of God], that he might sift [all of] you like grain, but **I have prayed especially for you** [Peter], that your [own] faith may not fail; and when you yourself have turned again, strengthen and establish your brethren." Luke 22:31-32 (AMPC)*

**Connection:** Jesus prayed for Peter before he denied Him. His intercession sustained Peter through failure and brought him back to strength.

## IV. THE PRAYER THAT NEVER STOPS

Imagine a prayer meeting that has continued unbroken for over 2,000 years. That is Christ's intercession. He has been praying for His people since He ascended, and He will never stop. His prayers are not generic. He knows you by name. He knows your battles. He knows your weaknesses. And He prays specifically, persistently, powerfully.

When you feel alone, remember - Jesus is praying for you. When you face temptation, He intercedes. When you struggle with doubt, He petitions the Father on your behalf. When accusation comes, He answers it with His blood.

## V. LIVING UNDER INTERCESSION

**When Weak:** His prayers sustain you. Even when your faith wavers, His intercession holds you.

**When Tempted:** He prays for your victory. He who was tempted in all things prays you through temptation.

**When Failing:** He does not stop praying. Failure does not end His advocacy.

**When Accused:** Satan may accuse, but Jesus defends. His voice overrules every charge.

**When Praying:** Join your prayers to His. The Spirit helps your weakness; Jesus presents your petitions (Romans 8:26-27, 34).

## VI. ADVENT MEDITATION

The Intercessor was born to die and rise again. His birth was not the end goal; it was the beginning.

The baby in the manger would grow, minister, suffer, die, rise, and ascend to the right hand of the Father. And there, He would begin His eternal work of intercession.

Advent points forward to the cross, the resurrection, and the throne. The Child would become the Priest. The Savior would become the Advocate.

And now, He lives to pray for you. Forever!



## DAY 9 - THE BREAD OF LIFE

### Scripture Foundation (AMPC)

#### **John 6:35 AMPC**

*“Jesus replied, I am the Bread of Life. He who comes to Me will never be hungry, and he who believes in and cleaves to and trusts in Me will never thirst any more.”*

#### **John 6:57 AMPC**

*“As the living Father sent Me and I live because of the Father, so whoever continues to feed on Me shall live because of Me.”*

#### **Psalms 34:8 AMPC**

*“O taste and see that the Lord [our God] is good!”*

#### **John 6:51 AMPC**

*“I Myself am this Living Bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this Bread, he will live forever.”*

**Core Truth: Jesus  
nourishes from  
within, not from  
afar.**

### Today's Devotional Reading

Every human heart experiences a deep, spiritual hunger that no earthly success, relationship, or possession can satisfy. God's answer to this universal longing is not a program or a principle, but a Person. Jesus declared, "I am the Bread of Life." Just as physical bread sustains the body, Jesus is the essential spiritual substance that nourishes the soul.

## More Than Manna in the Wilderness



"Your forefathers ate the **manna** in the wilderness, and [yet] they died. [But] this is the **Bread** that comes down from heaven, so that [any]one may eat of it and **never die.**"

John 6:49-50 (AMPC)

Unlike manna that sustained temporarily, the Living Bread gives eternal life.

Jesus contrasts Himself with the temporary manna Israel ate in the wilderness. He is the "Living Bread" from heaven. To "feed on" Christ is an intimate, ongoing act. Jesus's language here is intentionally visceral. The Greek word He uses, *trōgōn*, means to chew or consume. To "feed on" Him is not a polite, abstract idea. It is to continually,

almost ruggedly, take His life into the very fabric of our being, chewing on His words and consuming His truth as the essential nourishment for our souls.

The symbolism of Christ's birth is profound. The Bread of Life was laid in a manger—a feeding trough. From His very first moments, He was presented as the provision for our deepest hunger. The psalmist invites us to an experiential knowledge of God: "O taste and see that the Lord is good!" He is the only one who truly satisfies. This internal nourishment is the basis for a vital, life-giving connection, making us branches of the True Vine.

## The Bread Laid in a Feeding Trough



### Advent Insight

The Bread of Life was laid in a manger—the place where animals eat. The symbolism is deliberate. From the very beginning, He was identified as food, as nourishment, as the provision that sustains.

God's answer to human **hunger** is not a program, but a **Person**.

## An Invitation to Experience

You cannot know God's goodness by hearsay; you must taste it yourself. Do not settle for secondhand faith. Experience His goodness personally. He invites you to prove Him.



"O **taste and see** that the **Lord [our God] is good!** Blessed (happy, fortunate, to be envied) is the man who trusts and takes refuge in Him."

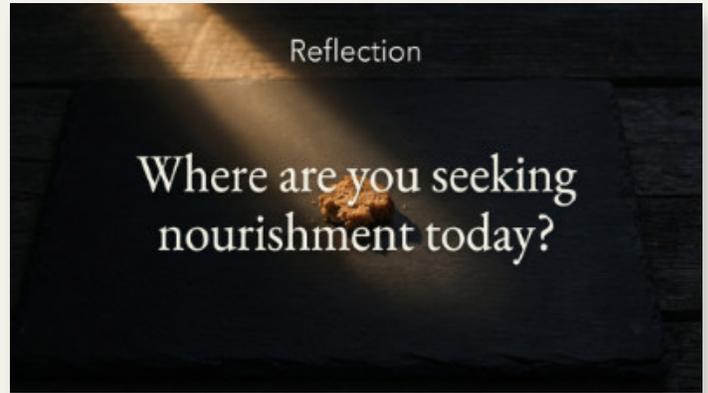
Psalms 34:8 (AMPC)

## Reflection & Application

We are constantly tempted to satisfy our spiritual hunger with lesser things—entertainment, ambition, approval. But these are like junk food for the soul; they never truly satisfy. The Bread of Life invites us to a daily feast. This requires a conscious choice to turn to Him as our source of life

and satisfaction.

- What lesser "foods" are you trying to satisfy your spiritual hunger with?
- What simple habit can you start today to "feed on" Christ more consistently?
- How can you "taste and see" that the Lord is good in a tangible way this week?



*Jesus, You are the Bread of Life. Forgive me for seeking satisfaction elsewhere. I come to You today, hungry and thirsty for what only You can provide. Be my daily bread, and satisfy my soul as only You can. Amen.*



### He Came to Sustain

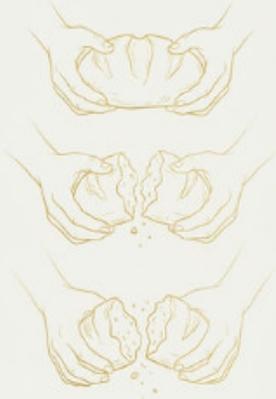
**Jesus nourishes from within, not from afar.**

Jesus came not only to forgive—He came to sustain. As the Bread of Life, He nourishes the inner man with strength, wisdom, courage, and peace. He satisfies the hunger no earthly thing can fill.

### Nourishment for Every Season of the Soul

To 'feed' on Christ is to receive His words, trust His heart, and draw from His presence. He becomes the daily nourishment that:

-  **Strengthens** us when weary
-  **Lifts** us when fainthearted
-  **Renews** us when empty



### A Continual Feast

**Word Study**  
To Feed On (Greek: *trōgōn*)

This word means to eat, to chew, to consume. It is a present participle, indicating a continual action, not a one-time meal. Relationship with Him is ongoing nourishment. Yesterday's feeding will not carry you through today.

This is the heart of the prayer,  
**"Give us this day our daily bread."**

## The Divine Proclamation

**I am the Bread of Life.** He who comes to Me will never be hungry, and he who believes in and cleaves to and trusts in and relies on Me will **never (at any time) be thirsty.**

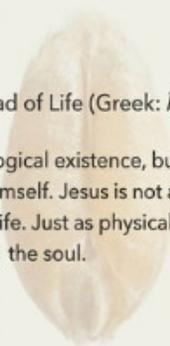
John 6:35 (AMPC)



## The Substance of Divine Life

**Word Study:** Bread of Life (Greek: *ho artos tēs zōēs*)

Zōē is not mere biological existence, but spiritual, eternal life—the life of God Himself. Jesus is not a supplement to life; He is the **substance** of life. Just as physical bread nourishes the body, Jesus nourishes the soul.



## DAY 9 — THE BREAD OF LIFE

### Role of Christ: The Bread of Life

#### The Revelation of the Bread of Life

"I am the Bread of Life. He who comes to Me will never be hungry, and he who believes in and cleaves to and trusts in Me will never thirst any more."  
— John 6:35 (AMPC)



He is not a distant source of help. He is the immediate, available bread placed directly into our hands.



Jesus came to sustain, not just forgive. He is the Bread of Life who nourishes the inner person with strength and peace.



#### Daily Nourishment for the Soul



To "feed on Christ" is to receive His life

This involves absorbing His words, trusting His heart, and drawing from His presence.



He strengthens the weary and renews the empty.

He satisfies the deep soul-hunger that nothing on earth can fill.

**Reflection:** How can you "taste and see" that Christ is good and enough for you today? This is an invitation to experience His goodness personally, not just theoretically.

# 12 Days of Emmanuel

## God With Us - Complete Study Guide

### DAY 9: The Bread of Life - In-Depth Study

**Core Truth:** Jesus nourishes from within, not from afar.



#### I. FOUNDATION VERSES

"Jesus replied to them, **I am the Bread of Life**. He who comes to Me will never be hungry, and he who believes in and cleaves to and trusts in and relies on Me will never (at any time) be thirsty." **John 6:35 (AMPC)**

"Just as the living Father sent Me and I live by (through, because of) the Father, even so **whoever continues to feed on Me [whoever takes Me for his food and is nourished by Me] shall [in his turn] live through and because of Me.**" **John 6:57 (AMPC)**

"**O taste and see that the Lord [our God] is good!** Blessed (happy, fortunate, to be envied) is the man who trusts and takes refuge in Him." **Psalm 34:8 (AMPC)**

"I [Myself] am this **Living Bread** that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this Bread, he will live forever; and also the Bread that I shall give for the life of the world is My flesh (body)." **John 6:51 (AMPC)**

#### II. WORD STUDIES

**A. "Bread of Life" (Greek: *ho artos tēs zōēs* - ὁ ἄρτος τῆς ζωῆς, Strong's G740 + G2222)**

**Meaning:** Bread is the basic food that sustains life. *Zōē* is not mere biological life but spiritual, eternal life - the life of God Himself.

**Biblical Use:** Jesus claims to be the source of spiritual sustenance. Just as bread nourishes the body, Jesus nourishes the soul. He is not optional; He is essential.

**Application:** You cannot spiritually survive apart from Jesus. He is not a supplement to life; He is the substance of life. Feed on Him daily.

**B. "Feed On" (Greek: *trōgōn* - τρώγων, Strong's G5176)**

**Meaning:** To eat, to chew, to consume. This is an ongoing present participle - continual eating, not a one-time meal.

**Biblical Use:** Jesus uses this word to emphasize that relationship with Him is ongoing nourishment. You do not eat Christ once and live forever; you feed on Him continually.

**Application:** Daily communion with Christ is essential. Read His Word. Pray. Worship. Let His life feed your soul every day.

**C. "Taste and See" (Hebrew: *ta'amu ur'u* - טַאמוּ אֲרוּ, Strong's H2938 + H7200)**

**Meaning:** To taste is to experience, to sample, to prove. To see is to perceive, to understand. This is experiential knowledge, not theoretical.

**Biblical Use:** The psalmist invites personal experience of God's goodness. You cannot know God's goodness by hearsay; you must taste it yourself.

**Application:** Do not settle for secondhand faith. Taste God for yourself. Experience His goodness personally. He invites you to prove Him.

#### **D. "Living Bread" (Greek: *ho artos ho zōn* - ὁ ἄρτος ὁ ζῶν, Strong's G740 + G2198)**

**Meaning:** Bread that is alive, bread that gives life. Unlike manna that sustained temporarily, this bread gives eternal life.

**Biblical Use:** Jesus contrasts Himself with the manna in the wilderness. The fathers ate manna and died. Whoever eats of Christ lives forever.

**Application:** Christ is not dead tradition or empty ritual. He is alive and life-giving. Union with Him brings eternal vitality.

### **III. CROSS-REFERENCES**

#### **Theme: Christ Our Sustenance**

*"Man shall not live and be upheld and sustained by bread alone, but by **every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.**" Matthew 4:4 (AMPC)*

**Connection:** Physical bread sustains the body; God's Word sustains the soul. Jesus is the Word made flesh - He is both the message and the meal.

*"For the bread of God is He Who comes down out of heaven and **gives life to the world.**" John 6:33 (AMPC)*

**Connection:** Christ does not give life to a select few. He offers life to the world. All who eat will live.

*"Your forefathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and [yet] they died. [But] this is the **Bread that comes down from heaven**, so that [any]one may eat of it and never die." John 6:49-50 (AMPC)*

**Connection:** Manna was temporary provision. Christ is eternal provision. Those who feed on Him do not die.

*"[For my determined purpose is] that I may **know Him** [that I may progressively become more deeply and intimately acquainted with Him, perceiving and recognizing and understanding the wonders of His Person more strongly and more clearly]." Philippians 3:10 (AMPC)*

**Connection:** Feeding on Christ is knowing Christ. Intimacy with Him is the nourishment that sustains.

### **IV. THE DAILY BREAD**

Jesus taught us to pray, "Give us this day our daily bread" (Matthew 6:11). That prayer is not just about physical food. It is about spiritual sustenance.

Every day, you need fresh bread from heaven. Yesterday's feeding will not carry you through today. You need new strength, new grace, new provision.

Christ is that daily bread. His mercies are new every morning (Lamentations 3:22-23). His strength is available fresh each day. He does not give you a week's worth of provision in advance; He gives you today's portion today.

## V. LIVING ON THE BREAD

**In the Morning:** Start your day feeding on Christ. Let His Word nourish you before the day's demands begin.

**In Weakness:** Come to the Bread of Life. He strengthens the faint and gives power to the weak.

**In Hunger:** Do not try to satisfy spiritual hunger with earthly things. Only Christ satisfies.

**In Routine:** Make feeding on Christ a daily habit, not an occasional treat.

**In Fellowship:** The Lord's Supper is remembrance and participation. Eat the bread; drink the cup. Remember the body broken for you.

## VI. ADVENT MEDITATION

The Bread of Life was laid in a feeding trough. A manger - the place where animals eat - held the One who would declare, "I am the Bread of Life."

The symbolism is deliberate. From the very beginning, He was identified as food, as nourishment, as the provision that sustains.

Advent reminds us that God's answer to human hunger is not a program but a Person. He did not send bread from heaven; He came as bread from heaven.

Taste and see. The Bread of Life has come. He is good. And He satisfies.



## DAY 10 - THE TRUE VINE

### Scripture Foundation (AMPC)

#### **John 15:4 AMPC**

*"Dwell in Me, and I will dwell in you... Just as no branch can bear fruit of itself without abiding in the vine, neither can you bear fruit unless you abide in Me."*

#### **John 15:5 AMPC**

*"I am the Vine; you are the branches. Whoever lives in Me and I in him bears much fruit."*

#### **Acts 17:28 AMPC**

*"For in Him we live and move and have our being."*

#### **Galatians 2:20 AMPC**

*"It is no longer I who live, but Christ (the Messiah) lives in me."*

### Today's Devotional Reading

One of the most liberating truths of the Christian faith is found in Jesus's beautiful metaphor of the Vine and the branches. He declares, "I am the True Vine; you are the branches." In this simple picture, He shifts our entire focus from striving to abiding, from self-effort to vital connection. A branch does not strain to produce grapes; it simply stays attached to the vine. The life flows from the vine, and fruit appears as a natural result.

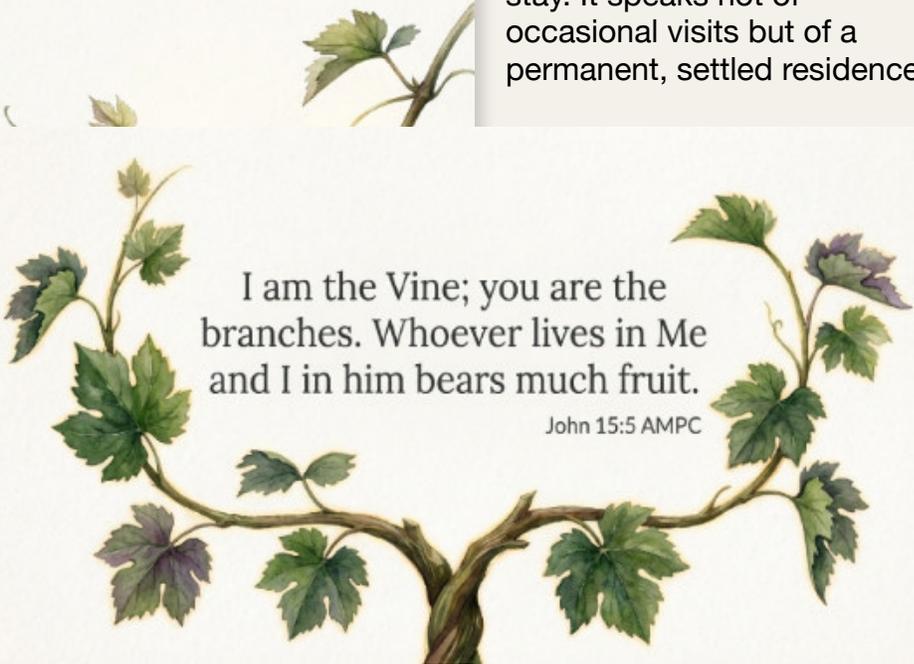
**Core Truth: He shares His life with us in continual connection.**

# The Invitation

Jesus invites continual connection, not separation.

This is the posture of the Christian life: a continual, conscious dependence on Christ as our source. Jesus makes it clear: "apart from Me you can do nothing."

The key to this life is one simple command: "Abide in Me." The Greek word *meinō* means to remain, to dwell, to stay. It speaks not of occasional visits but of a permanent, settled residence.



I am the Vine; you are the branches. Whoever lives in Me and I in him bears much fruit.

John 15:5 AMPC

## Why This Matters Today



Fruit comes from connection

Growth is relational

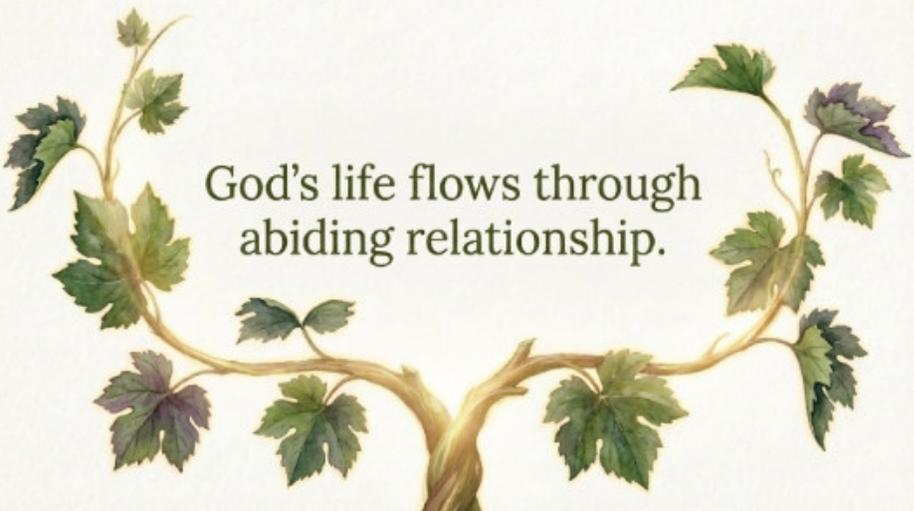
Strength flows from nearness

Fruitfulness is not the product of our hard work; it is the evidence of His life flowing through us. This is effortless fruitfulness. When we abide, peace settles without us striving for it, and love flows without us manufacturing it. Our very existence is bound up in Him: "In Him we live and move and have our

being." The fruitfulness of His life in us is made possible only by the selfless sacrifice of His life for us, as the Lamb of God.

## Reflection & Application

The call to abide brings immense peace. It releases

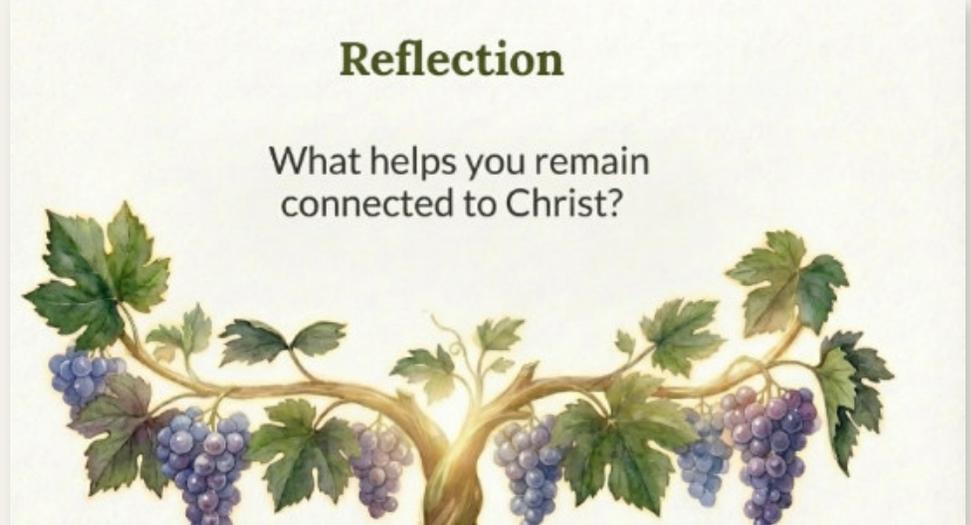


God's life flows through abiding relationship.

us from the pressure to perform and the stress of self-reliance. Our primary responsibility is not to produce, but to connect. When we feel spiritually dry, barren, or exhausted, the first question is not "Am I trying hard enough?" but "Am I abiding?"

- Where are you striving in your own strength instead of abiding in the Vine?
- What does it look like for you to practically "abide" in Christ throughout your day?
- What "fruit" (e.g., patience, joy, kindness) do you need today that can only come from His life in you?

*Lord Jesus, You are the Vine and I am a branch. I release my own efforts to be fruitful and choose to simply abide in You. Let Your life flow in me and through me today, producing the fruit that brings glory to the Father. Amen.*



## Day 10: The True Vine

### Role of Christ: The Source of Life

He is the vine from whom all spiritual life and fruitfulness flow.

**Core Revelation**  
Spiritual life flows from Christ to us when we remain connected; our role is to receive, not to strive.

**With-Us Emphasis**

- Shares His very life
- Dwells within us
- Sustains our being

**Key Scripture**  
*I am the Vine; you are the branches. Whoever lives in Me and I in him bears much fruit.*  
— John 15:5 (AMPC)

**Reflection Prompt**  
Where are you striving in your own strength instead of resting in your connection to the Vine?

**Why This Matters Today**

- Fruitfulness (love, joy, peace) is a result of connection, not just effort.
- Your strength for today flows from His life, not your own resources.
- True rest is found by abiding in Him, not by working harder for Him.

**Anchor Line**  
Everything grows from closeness.

# 12 Days of Emmanuel

## God With Us - Complete Study Guide

### DAY 10: The True Vine - In-Depth Study

**Core Truth:** He shares His life with us in continual connection.



#### I. FOUNDATION VERSES

*"Dwell in Me, and I will dwell in you. [Live in Me, and I will live in you.] Just as no branch can bear fruit of itself without abiding in (being vitally united to) the vine, neither can you bear fruit unless you abide in Me."* **John 15:4 (AMPC)**

*"I am the Vine; you are the branches. Whoever lives in Me and I in him bears much (abundant) fruit. However, apart from Me [cut off from vital union with Me] you can do nothing."* **John 15:5 (AMPC)**

*"For in Him we live and move and have our being; as even some of your [own] poets have said, For we are also His offspring."* **Acts 17:28 (AMPC)**

*"I have been crucified with Christ [in Him I have shared His crucifixion]; it is no longer I who live, but Christ (the Messiah) lives in me; and the life I now live in the body I live by faith in (by adherence to and reliance on and complete trust in) the Son of God, Who loved me and gave Himself up for me."* **Galatians 2:20 (AMPC)**

#### II. WORD STUDIES

##### A. "Vine" (Greek: *ampelos* - ἄμπελος, Strong's G288)

**Meaning:** A grapevine, the plant from which branches grow and fruit is produced.

**Biblical Use:** In the Old Testament, Israel was called God's vine (Psalm 80:8; Isaiah 5:1-7), but they failed to bear fruit. Jesus declares Himself the True Vine - the faithful, fruitful vine Israel was meant to be.

**Application:** Christ is the source. All spiritual life flows from Him. Apart from connection to Him, there is no life, no growth, no fruit.

##### B. "Abide" (Greek: *meinō* - μένω, Strong's G3306)

**Meaning:** To remain, to dwell, to stay, to continue. This is not occasional visiting but permanent residence.

**Biblical Use:** Jesus uses this word repeatedly in John 15. Abide in Me. Remain in Me. Stay connected to Me. This is the key to fruitfulness.

**Application:** Abiding is not a one-time decision but a continual posture. Stay connected to Christ through His Word, prayer, worship, obedience. Live in constant communion.

### C. "Bear Fruit" (Greek: *karpon pherein* - καρπὸν φέρειν, Strong's G2590 + G5342)

**Meaning:** To carry fruit, to produce, to bring forth. Fruit is the natural result of a healthy connection to the vine.

**Biblical Use:** A branch does not strain to produce fruit. It simply stays connected to the vine, and fruit appears naturally. The vine does the work; the branch receives the result.

**Application:** Spiritual fruit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control - Galatians 5:22-23) is not manufactured by effort. It flows from abiding in Christ.

### D. "In Him We Live" (Greek: *en autō zōmen* - ἐν αὐτῷ ζῶμεν, Strong's G1722 + G846 + G2198)

**Meaning:** In Him, by Him, through Him we have life. This is total dependence. Our very existence is sustained by Christ.

**Biblical Use:** Paul quotes Greek poets to show that even pagan philosophy recognized humanity's dependence on the divine. How much more should believers recognize their total dependence on Christ.

**Application:** You do not live independently and occasionally consult Christ. You live in Him. Every breath, every heartbeat, every moment exists because He sustains you.

## III. CROSS-REFERENCES

### Theme: Union with Christ

*"I am the Vine; you are the branches. Whoever lives in Me and I in him bears much (abundant) fruit. However, **apart from Me [cut off from vital union with Me] you can do nothing.**" John 15:5 (AMPC)*

**Connection:** Independence from Christ is barrenness. All spiritual productivity depends on connection to Him.

*"But he who is united to the Lord **becomes one spirit with Him.**" 1 Corinthians 6:17 (AMPC)*

**Connection:** Union with Christ is spiritual fusion. You are joined to Him in such a way that His life becomes your life.

*"For you have died, and your [new, real] **life is hidden with Christ in God.**" Colossians 3:3 (AMPC)*

**Connection:** Your life is no longer your own. It is hidden with Christ in God - secure, protected, sustained by divine power.

*"And this is the testimony (the evidence): God gave us eternal life, and **this life is in His Son.** He who possesses the Son has that life; he who does not possess the Son of God does not have that life." 1 John 5:11-12 (AMPC)*

**Connection:** Life is not in a system, a set of rules, or a religious practice. Life is in a Person. You have life only in Christ.

## IV. THE EFFORTLESS FRUITFULNESS

A branch does not sweat to produce grapes. It simply stays attached to the vine. The sap flows. The nutrients come. The fruit appears.

This is the Christian life. Abide in Christ, and fruitfulness is automatic. Stay connected, and love flows. Remain in Him, and joy bubbles up. Dwell in Him, and peace settles in.

The problem is not that we do not try hard enough. The problem is that we try to produce fruit while disconnected from the Vine. We strain, strive, and stress - and produce nothing.

Abide. That is the command. Not "work harder." Not "try more." Abide. Stay. Remain. Live in union with Christ, and fruit will come.

## **V. LIVING IN THE VINE**

**In the Morning:** Begin your day in conscious connection to Christ. Acknowledge your dependence. "Apart from You, I can do nothing."

**Throughout the Day:** Practice the presence of God. Abide continually. Let every thought return to Him.

**In Decision-Making:** Ask, "What does the Vine want?" Your choices flow from connection to Him.

**In Fruitlessness:** Check the connection. Are you trying to produce fruit independently? Return to abiding.

**In Rest:** Abiding is not striving. It is resting in His life flowing through you.

## **VI. ADVENT MEDITATION**

The Vine came down from heaven to be planted in earth. The eternal Son took root in human soil.

He grew. He was tested. He was pruned by suffering. And He became the True Vine - the source of life for all who would connect to Him.

Advent is the celebration of God making Himself accessible. The Vine is no longer distant. He is near. He is available. He invites connection.

Abide in Him. Stay connected. Let His life flow through you. In Him, you live. In Him, you move. In Him, you have your being.

## Part IV: The Purpose of Presence



### DAY 11 - THE LAMB OF GOD

#### Scripture Foundation (AMPC)

##### **John 1:29 AMPC**

*"Behold, the Lamb of God, Who takes away the sin of the world!"*

##### **Isaiah 53:5 AMPC**

*"But He was wounded for our transgressions... and with the stripes that wounded Him we are healed and made whole."*

##### **1 Corinthians 5:7 AMPC**

*"For Christ, our Passover Lamb, has been sacrificed."*

##### **Revelation 5:12 AMPC**

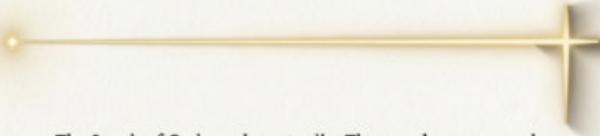
*"Worthy is the Lamb Who was slain, to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!"*

**Core Truth: He entered our suffering to redeem us.**

#### **Today's Devotional Reading**

At the very heart of God's plan is the concept of a perfect sacrifice. When John the Baptist saw Jesus, his declaration cut to the core of His mission: "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" With these words, he identified Jesus as the fulfillment of every sacrificial lamb in the Old Testament—most importantly, the Passover lamb whose blood protected Israel from judgment.

## From Manger to Cross



The Lamb of God was born to die. The angels announced His birth, but they knew His destiny. From the manger to the cross is a straight line. Advent points forward to Calvary. The baby wrapped in cloths would one day be laid in a tomb. The Lamb was born to save.

Jesus is the innocent Lamb who came to bear our guilt. Isaiah prophesied that He would be "wounded for our transgressions," pierced not for His own sin, but for ours. He did not die as a martyr for a noble cause; He died as a substitute for guilty sinners. Every wound He bore was in our place. As our "Passover Lamb," Christ's sacrifice protects us from judgment. The Lamb did not just cover our sin temporarily; He "takes away" (*airōn*) the sin of the world, lifting it up

and carrying it away completely.

Advent points to the manger, but the manger points inexorably to the cross. The Lamb of God was born to die. Before the world was even made, the Lamb was "slain" in the heart of God (Revelation 13:8). Redemption was never Plan B. He walked willingly into suffering because He loved you. The finality of His sacrificial death paves the way for the ultimate victory of His resurrection.

## The Power of His Blood



### It Secures Our Victory

"And they have overcome (conquered) him by means of the blood of the Lamb and by the utterance of their testimony..."

Revelation 12:11 (AMPC)



### It Purchases Our Redemption

"...for You were slain (sacrificed), and with Your blood You purchased men unto God from every tribe and language and people and nation."

Revelation 5:9 (AMPC)

## Why This Matters Today

- Our debt is paid in full.
- We are accepted because of His **sacrifice**, not our performance.
- Peace with God is a finished reality.

*How does knowing the Lamb was sacrificed for you change how you see yourself today?*

unworthiness?

- In what area of your life do you need to apply the victory won by the blood of the Lamb?
- How can you express your gratitude today for the incredible price the Lamb of God paid for you?

## Reflection & Application

Living under the blood of the Lamb means living in the security of a finished work. We no longer have to strive to earn God's favor or fear His condemnation. Our sin has been dealt with, once and for all. This truth quiets our guilt, frees us from shame, and empowers us to live in the victory He has won.

- How does meditating on the sacrifice of the Lamb quiet feelings of guilt or

*Worthy is the Lamb who was slain! Thank you, Lord Jesus, for taking away my sin and bearing my punishment. I receive the forgiveness, peace, and healing that Your sacrifice purchased for me. May my life be an offering of worship to You. Amen.*

## The Prophetic Foundation

*"But He was wounded for our transgressions,  
He was bruised for our guilt and iniquities;  
the chastisement [needful to obtain] peace  
and well-being for us was upon Him, and  
with the stripes [that wounded] Him we  
are healed and made whole."*

Isaiah 53:5 (AMPC)

"Behold, the Lamb  
of God, Who takes  
away the sin of the  
world!"

— John 1:29 AMPC

The ultimate expression  
of 'God with us' was God  
becoming the **sacrifice**  
*for* us. His presence among  
sinners required a  
payment for sin, which  
He Himself became.

## The Willing Lamb



"He was oppressed, [yet when] He  
was afflicted, He was submissive  
and opened not His mouth; like a  
lamb that is led to the slaughter,  
and as a sheep before her  
shearers is dumb, so He opened  
not His mouth."

Isaiah 53:7 (AMPC)

## The Language of Sacrifice

ὁ ἀμνὸς τοῦ θεοῦ

**Lamb of God (ho amnos tou theou)**

- **Definition:** Points to an innocent, sacrificial lamb led to slaughter, fulfilling every sacrificial type in the Old Testament.
- **Implication:** Jesus is the ultimate and final sacrifice. His death was once for all, sufficient for every sin.



αἶρων

**Takes Away (airōn)**

- **Definition:** To lift up, to carry away, to remove, to take upon oneself. This is substitutionary bearing.
- **Implication:** Sin is not merely covered or overlooked; it is permanently removed and carried away.





# DAY 11 — THE LAMB OF GOD

## The Lamb Who Redeems Us

### Role of Christ

The perfect sacrifice who entered our suffering to take away our sin.

*“Look! There is the Lamb of God, Who takes away the sin of the world!” – John 1:29 (AMPC)*

### Core Revelation

God came near not only to live with us, but to suffer for us, carrying our sin to bring us back to Him.

### Why This Matters Today

- His sacrifice removes guilt, brings victory in battle, and offers deep healing and peace.

### With-Us Emphasis



Carried our sin



Bore our sorrow



Paid our debt

❖ How does knowing the Lamb was sacrificed for you change how you see your own worth? ❖

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain.

# 12 Days of Emmanuel

## God With Us - Complete Study Guide

### DAY 11: The Lamb of God - In-Depth Study

**Core Truth:** He entered our suffering to redeem us.



#### I. FOUNDATION VERSES

"The next day John saw Jesus coming to him and said, Look! There is **the Lamb of God, Who takes away the sin of the world!**" **John 1:29 (AMPC)**

"But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our guilt and iniquities; the chastisement [needful to obtain] peace and well-being for us was upon Him, and **with the stripes [that wounded] Him we are healed and made whole.**" **Isaiah 53:5 (AMPC)**

"Purge (clean out) the old leaven that you may be fresh (new) dough, still uncontaminated [as you are], for **Christ, our Passover [Lamb], has been sacrificed.**" **1 Corinthians 5:7 (AMPC)**

"And they sang a new song, saying, **Worthy are You to take the scroll and to break the seals that are on it, for You were slain (sacrificed), and with Your blood You purchased men unto God from every tribe and language and people and nation.**" **Revelation 5:9 (AMPC)**

#### II. WORD STUDIES

**A. "Lamb of God" (Greek: *ho amnos tou theou* - ὁ ἀμνὸς τοῦ θεοῦ, Strong's G286 + G2316)**

**Meaning:** A lamb, specifically a sacrificial lamb. *Amnos* points to the lamb led to slaughter, the innocent victim offered for sin.

**Biblical Use:** John the Baptist identifies Jesus as the fulfillment of every sacrificial lamb in the Old Testament - the Passover lamb, the daily temple sacrifices, the scapegoat on the Day of Atonement.

**Application:** Jesus is the ultimate sacrifice. No more lambs need to be slain. His death was once for all, sufficient for every sin of every person for all time.

**B. "Takes Away" (Greek: *airōn* - αἴρω, Strong's G142)**

**Meaning:** To lift up, to carry away, to remove, to take upon oneself. This is substitutionary bearing.

**Biblical Use:** The Lamb does not cover sin temporarily; He removes it permanently. He lifts it from us and carries it away.

**Application:** Your sin is not merely forgiven in the sense of overlooked. It is removed. Taken away. Carried off. As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions (Psalm 103:12).

**C. "Wounded for Our Transgressions" (Hebrew: *mecholah mipsha'enu* - נִשְׁחָטָנוּ לְפָנָיו, Strong's H2490 + H6588)**

**Meaning:** Pierced, wounded, profaned for our rebellion, our revolt, our sin. *Pasha* means willful transgression, not accidental sin.

**Biblical Use:** Isaiah prophesies that the Suffering Servant would bear wounds for our deliberate rebellion. He was pierced not for His sin but for ours.

**Application:** Christ did not die as a martyr for a cause. He died as a substitute for sinners. Every wound He bore was in your place.

#### **D. "Passover Lamb" (Greek: *pascha* - πάσχα, Strong's G3957)**

**Meaning:** The Passover, the feast celebrating Israel's deliverance from Egypt by the blood of a lamb on the doorposts.

**Biblical Use:** Paul identifies Christ as our Passover Lamb. Just as the lamb's blood protected Israel from judgment, Christ's blood protects us from the wrath of God.

**Application:** You are safe under the blood of the Lamb. Judgment has passed over you. Death has no claim on you. The Lamb has died in your place.

### **III. CROSS-REFERENCES**

#### **Theme: The Sacrificial Lamb**

*"He was oppressed, [yet when] He was afflicted, **He was submissive and opened not His mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter**, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so He opened not His mouth."* **Isaiah 53:7 (AMPC)**

**Connection:** The Lamb went willingly. He did not resist. He did not defend Himself. He submitted to slaughter for our sake.

*"For you know that you were redeemed (ransomed) from the useless (fruitless) way of living inherited by tradition from [your] forefathers, not with corruptible things [such as] silver and gold, but [you were purchased] with **the precious blood of Christ (the Messiah), like that of a [sacrificial] lamb without blemish or spot.**"* **1 Peter 1:18-19 (AMPC)**

**Connection:** The Lamb was without blemish. His perfection qualified Him to be the acceptable sacrifice. No defect. No sin. Pure.

*"And they have overcome (conquered) him by means of **the blood of the Lamb** and by the utterance of their testimony, for they did not love and cling to life even when faced with death [holding their lives cheap till they had to die for their witnessing]."* **Revelation 12:11 (AMPC)**

**Connection:** The blood of the Lamb is the weapon of victory. Satan is defeated not by our strength but by Christ's sacrifice.

*"After this I looked, and behold, a vast multitude which no one could count, [gathered] from every nation and from all the tribes and peoples and languages [of the earth], standing before the throne and before the Lamb, dressed in white robes, with **palm branches in their hands.**"* **Revelation 7:9 (AMPC)**

**Connection:** The Lamb who was slain is now worshiped by the redeemed from every nation. His sacrifice has purchased a people for God.

### **IV. THE LAMB SLAIN FROM THE FOUNDATION**

Before the world was made, the Lamb was slain in the heart of God (Revelation 13:8). Redemption was not Plan B. It was the plan.

God knew humanity would fall. He knew the cost of salvation. And He committed, before creation, to pay it.

The Lamb came willingly. He was not forced to the cross. He chose it. He set His face like flint toward Jerusalem (Isaiah 50:7). He walked deliberately into suffering because He loved you.

## **V. LIVING UNDER THE BLOOD**

**In Guilt:** The blood of the Lamb cleanses you from all sin (1 John 1:7). No guilt can stand against it.

**In Fear:** You are safe under the blood. Judgment has passed over you.

**In Battle:** Overcome by the blood of the Lamb (Revelation 12:11). His sacrifice is your victory.

**In Worship:** Worthy is the Lamb (Revelation 5:12). Let your life be an offering of gratitude.

**In Proclamation:** Tell the world about the Lamb who died for sinners. His sacrifice is good news for all.

## **VI. ADVENT MEDITATION**

The Lamb of God was born to die. The angels announced His birth, but they knew His destiny. The shepherds worshiped Him, unaware that He would become the Lamb who takes away the sin of the world.

From the manger to the cross is a straight line. Advent points forward to Calvary. The baby wrapped in cloths would one day be wrapped in grave clothes. The child laid in a manger would one day be laid in a tomb.

But the Lamb who was slain is also the Lamb who rose. He conquered death. And now He reigns.

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing.



## DAY 12 - THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE

### Scripture Foundation (AMPC)

#### **John 11:25 AMPC**

*“Jesus said to her, I am the Resurrection and the Life. Whoever believes in Me... shall never die.”*

#### **John 14:19 AMPC**

*“Because I live, you will live also.”*

#### **Romans 8:11 AMPC**

*“If the Spirit of Him Who raised up Jesus from the dead dwells in you... He will also restore to life your mortal bodies through His Spirit Who dwells in you.”*

#### **Ephesians 2:6 AMPC**

*“And He raised us up together with Him and made us sit down together with Him in the heavenly sphere.”*

**Core Truth: His  
victory becomes  
our victory.  
connection.**

### Today's Devotional Reading

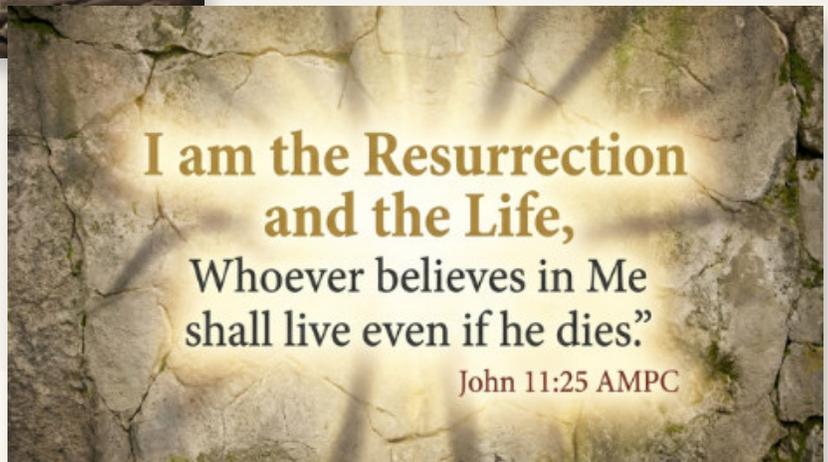
The journey that began in the quiet humility of a manger culminates in the world-altering power of an empty tomb. The resurrection is the ultimate validation of Jesus's identity. Standing before a tomb, Jesus made one of His most profound declarations: "I am the Resurrection and the Life."

He does not merely *give* resurrection; He *is* the Resurrection. He embodies the very power that conquers death.



The resurrection is not just a future hope; it is a present reality we live from. Jesus promised, "Because I live, you will live also." Paul takes this even further, explaining that in God's eyes, our resurrection is an accomplished fact: He "raised us up together with Him." We are not fighting *for* victory; we are living *from* a victory that has already been won.

This victory is applied to our daily lives through the Holy Spirit. "If the Spirit of Him Who raised up Jesus from the dead dwells in you," Paul writes, "He will also restore to life your mortal bodies." The same divine



power—the same *anastasis* or "standing up again"—that brought Jesus out of the grave is now at work within us. Our 12-day journey comes full circle. Emmanuel, who came as a vulnerable baby to be "God with us" in our humanity, now reigns as the victorious Resurrection and Life, fully accomplishing His mission.

## Reflection & Application

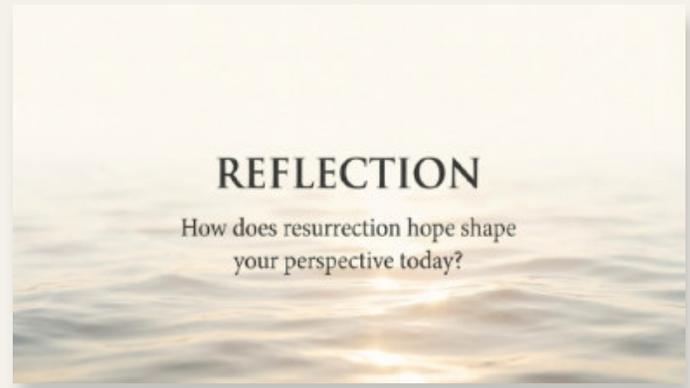
Living in resurrection power means we no longer have to be defined by our defeats, our weaknesses, or our fears. The power that conquered the grave is available to us every moment of every day. We can face challenges not in our own strength, but in the strength of the One who has overcome the world.

- How does knowing "the same



Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead lives in you" empower you to face today's challenges?

- Where have you been living as if death, failure, or sin has the final say, instead of living in resurrection power?
- How can you consciously live from your position of being "seated with Christ" in victory today?



*Father, thank You for the victory of the resurrection! Thank You that because Jesus lives, I live also. Fill me with Your Spirit and empower me to walk in the reality of this resurrection life today, overcoming every obstacle by the power that is at work within me. Amen.*

**DAY 12 - THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE**  
Role of Christ: The Resurrection and The Life

**"I am the Resurrection and the Life. Whoever believes in Me... shall never die."**  
John 11:25 (AMPC)

**The "With-Us" Emphasis**

- Restores what is lost
- Revives what has grown cold
- Lives within us

**Why This Matters Today**

- The same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you
- Because He lives, your future is secure and death is not the final word
- His victory means you cannot be ultimately defeated by any circumstance

**Reflection Prompt**  
How does knowing His life lives in you change how you face today's challenges?

**Death is defeated. Life has won.**

## Conclusion: Living as Emmanuel's People

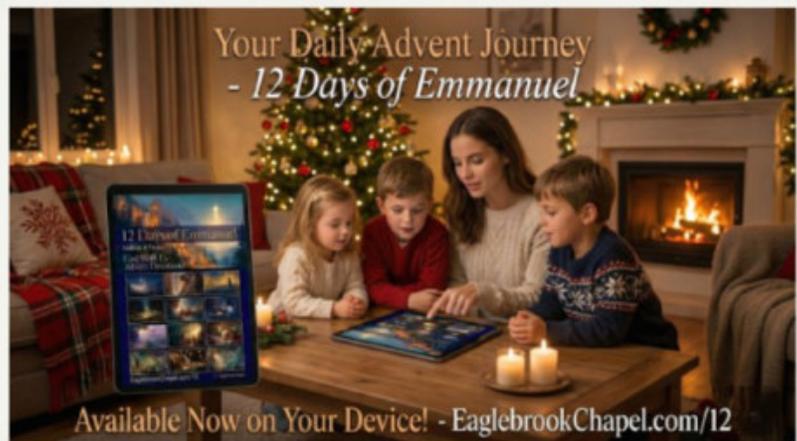
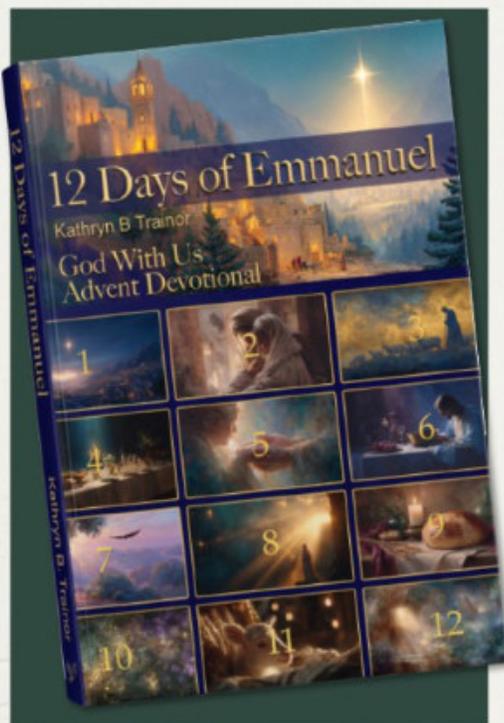
We have journeyed through twelve names, twelve facets of the God who chose to be with us. From the foundational promise of *Emmanuel* to the ultimate victory of the *Resurrection and the Life*, each name has revealed another layer of His nearness, His character, and His provision.

These are not just titles to be learned, but invitations to be experienced. Jesus is the Good Shepherd who guides you, the Friend of Sinners who welcomes you, the Healer who touches you, the Bread of Life who sustains you, and the Intercessor who prays for you. Each name is a doorway into a deeper, more personal relationship with Him.

As this devotional journey concludes, the true adventure of living as Emmanuel's people begins. May you continue to explore the depths of who He is, learning to recognize His presence in every circumstance. May you live in the unshakeable reality that you are never, ever alone. For the God who came near has promised to stay near, forever.

*"For God so greatly loved and dearly prized the world that He [even] gave up His only begotten (unique) Son, so that whoever believes in (trusts in, clings to, relies on) Him shall not perish (come to destruction, be lost) but have eternal (everlasting) life."* **John 3:16 (AMPC)**

*Emmanuel - God With Us - Forever*



### Key Themes



Nearness & Companionship



Relationship Over Rules



A Tangible Experience of God

# 12 Days of Emmanuel

## God With Us - Complete Study Guide

### DAY 12: The Resurrection and the Life - In-Depth Study

Core Truth: His victory becomes our victory.



#### I. FOUNDATION VERSES

"Jesus said to her, ***I am [Myself] the Resurrection and the Life.*** Whoever believes in (adheres to, trusts in, and relies on) Me, although he may die, yet he shall live." **John 11:25 (AMPC)**

**"Because I live, you will live also."** John 14:19 (AMPC)

"And if the Spirit of Him Who raised up Jesus from the dead dwells in you, [then] He Who raised up Christ Jesus from the dead will also **restore to life your mortal (short-lived, perishable) bodies through His Spirit Who dwells in you.**" Romans 8:11 (AMPC)

"And He raised us up together with Him and made us **sit down together [giving us joint seating with Him] in the heavenly sphere [by virtue of our being] in Christ Jesus (the Messiah, the Anointed One).**" Ephesians 2:6 (AMPC)

#### II. WORD STUDIES

##### A. "Resurrection" (Greek: *anastasis* - ανάστασις, Strong's G386)

**Meaning:** A standing up again, a rising from the dead, a return to life from death.

**Biblical Use:** Jesus claims to be not just someone who will resurrect but the Resurrection itself. He is not merely the agent of resurrection; He is the embodiment of resurrection power.

**Application:** Life conquers death in Christ. He is the power that raises the dead, and that power lives in you.

##### B. "Life" (Greek: *zōē* - ζωή, Strong's G2222)

**Meaning:** Life in the absolute sense, eternal life, the life of God Himself. Not biological existence but divine vitality.

**Biblical Use:** Jesus is not just alive; He is Life. He is the source, the substance, the sustainer of all true life.

**Application:** To have Christ is to have life. To know Him is to live. Apart from Him is death, no matter how much activity there is.

##### C. "Because I Live, You Will Live" (Greek: *egō zō kai hymeis zēsete* - ἐγὼ ζῶ καὶ ὑμεῖς ζήσετε, Strong's G1473 + G2198)

**Meaning:** I live (present tense), and you will live (future certainty). His life guarantees your life.

**Biblical Use:** Jesus promises that His resurrection guarantees ours. Because He lives, death has no final claim on us.

**Application:** Your future is secure. Death is not the end. Because Jesus lives, you will live also.

#### **D. "Raised Us Up Together" (Greek: *synēgeiren* - συνήγειρεν, Strong's G4891)**

**Meaning:** To raise together with, to resurrect in union with. The prefix *syn* means with, together.

**Biblical Use:** Paul declares that believers have already been raised with Christ. In God's eyes, your resurrection is complete. You are seated with Christ in heavenly places right now.

**Application:** You are not waiting to be raised. You have been raised. Live from resurrection reality now.

### **III. CROSS-REFERENCES**

#### **Theme: Resurrection Power**

*"For I know [with confident assurance] that my Redeemer lives, And at the last He will take His stand upon the earth."* **Job 19:25 (NASB concept via AMPC)**

**Connection:** Even in the Old Testament, faith looked forward to the Redeemer who would conquer death. Jesus is that Redeemer.

*"Jesus said to her, Did I not tell you and promise you that if you would believe and rely on Me, you would see the glory of God?"* **John 11:40 (AMPC)**

**Connection:** Resurrection is the glory of God on display. When Jesus raised Lazarus, it was a preview of the final resurrection.

*"But if the Spirit of Him Who raised up Jesus from the dead dwells in you, [then] He Who raised up Christ Jesus from the dead will also **restore to life your mortal (short-lived, perishable) bodies through His Spirit Who dwells in you.**"* **Romans 8:11 (AMPC)**

**Connection:** The same Spirit who raised Jesus lives in you. Resurrection power is not future only; it works in you now.

*"[Even as] He chose us [actually picked us out for Himself as His own] in Christ before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy (consecrated and set apart for Him) and blameless in His sight, even above reproach, before Him in love."* **Ephesians 1:4 (AMPC)**

**Connection:** God's plan included your resurrection from the beginning. You were chosen in Christ before the world existed, destined for eternal life.

*"For our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will **transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body**, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself."* **Philippians 3:20-21 (ESV concept via AMPC)**

**Connection:** Your resurrection body will be like Christ's glorified body. The transformation is certain; the power is already at work.

### **IV. THE LIFE THAT CONQUERS DEATH**

Death is not the final word. The grave is not the end. Because Jesus walked out of the tomb, death has been defeated.

Resurrection is not just future hope; it is present reality. You have been raised with Christ (Colossians 3:1). Your life is hidden with Him in God. Death no longer has dominion over you.

The resurrection of Jesus is the guarantee of your resurrection. His victory is your victory. His life is your life. His future is your future.

## **V. LIVING IN RESURRECTION POWER**

**In Defeat:** You cannot be finally defeated. Resurrection power lives in you.

**In Death:** Death is not the end. It is a doorway to life in the presence of Christ.

**In Daily Life:** The power that raised Jesus from the dead is at work in you now (Ephesians 1:19-20). Live from that power.

**In Hope:** Your future is resurrection. Your body will be glorified. Death will be swallowed up in victory (1 Corinthians 15:54).

**In Witness:** Tell the world that Jesus is risen. Death could not hold Him, and it cannot hold you.

## **VI. ADVENT MEDITATION**

The Resurrection and the Life came as a baby. Born to die, yes - but also born to rise.

The manger leads to the cross, and the cross leads to the empty tomb. Advent is not complete without Easter. The birth of Christ points forward to His death and resurrection.

The child in the manger holds the keys of death and Hades (Revelation 1:18). He came to destroy the power of death and bring life and immortality to light (2 Timothy 1:10).

Because He lives, we will live also. The Resurrection and the Life has come. Death is defeated. Life has won.

### **THE END**

*"For God so greatly loved and dearly prized the world that He [even] gave up His only begotten (unique) Son, so that whoever believes in (trusts in, clings to, relies on) Him shall not perish (come to destruction, be lost) but have eternal (everlasting) life." **John 3:16 (AMPC)***

*Emmanuel - God With Us - Forever*

# Not Just For Christmas! This is important ALL the time! It's Love!

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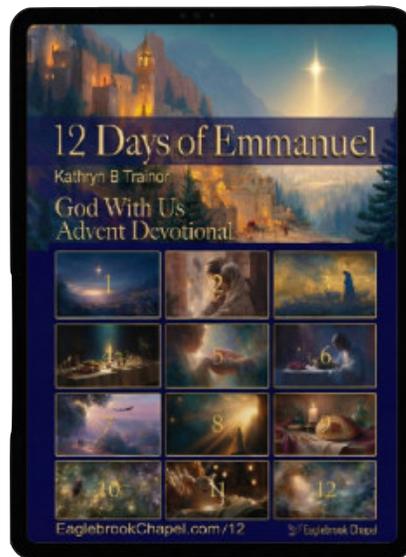
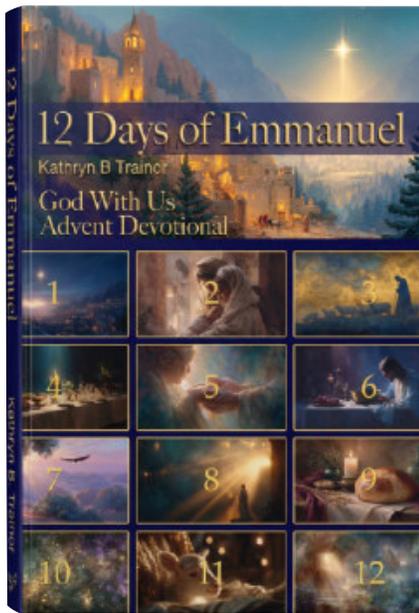
## Companion Publication

This devotional is followed by a companion work titled:

**12 Days of Emmanuel – “God With Us” Christmas Mini Book**

## Digital Edition & Accessibility

These digital editions are produced with selectable text, embedded fonts, and accessibility features enabled to support reading across devices and platforms.



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## Pictures and Resources On Website Are More Robust, Because Shareable Files Are Small

- Online Advent Calendar: <https://eaglebrookchapel.com/12>
- Download Other Formats: <https://eaglebrookchapel.com/get-12>
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