

Thornbury Baptist Church
Matthew Teaching Series
Small Group Discussion Questions

Talk Date: September 8th 2024

Talk title: 'God with us and God for us'*

Passage: Matthew 1:18-25

Speaker: Paul Ferguson

Discussion Questions

In the talk Paul reflected on the names given to the messiah. Jesus is God's chosen king who through his life, death, resurrection and exaltation established a kingdom which mirrors his beautiful priorities and character. The two names, Immanuel and Jesus given to the King and recorded by Matthew remind us that God is both with us and for us.

- Immanuel (God with us). We considered that this title was drawn from an early prophetic word and a sign given by Isaiah to Ahaz king of Judah (Isaiah 7). How do you imagine Ahaz and Judah felt on hearing this given the perilous position? How do we respond and feel when facing challenging situations in the light of Immanuel?
- Immanuel reminds us that the coming of Christ, the incarnation (God becoming flesh) emphasised God's commitment to his creation. He has not and will not desert what he has made, but will renew all things (Matt 19:28). How does this affect our view of the world around us, our neighbours, our friends and family and our own bodies?
- How does 'Immanuel' strengthen and help us when facing a new day, week, difficulty or joy...?
- God for us. God is for us because he gave Jesus. The name Jesus means God saves and Jesus did this through his life, death, resurrection and exaltation. Matthew tells us that Jesus will save people from their sins (Matt 1: 21). How easy/hard is it for us to confess our need of saving? Why do feel people find it difficult to admit the need for forgiveness of sin? What does the word sin bring to mind? Share your response to the knowledge that God is for you?
- How do the names Immanuel and Jesus inform the way we communicate our faith?

Takeaway

What is the main thing each person is taking away from this discussion?

All talks are recorded and may be viewed on TBC's YouTube Channel:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCM1OwaJ4eSICosAjI9Ofzjw>