

With Us

The Craziest Will End (Wk.1)

LifeNotes

TALK IT OVER

Main Idea

The promise that He is with us means the craziness will end.

Key Scriptures

This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us"). When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. Matthew 1:18-24

Hope is more than a slogan or bumper sticker; it a practical strategy when faced with the crazy pain of everyday life.

"With us" shouts a promise our hearts can cling to:

Hold On Pain Ends

Start talking.

- Joel opened describing his "pity party" from last week. What was your last "pity party" about?
- What things tend to trigger that kind of response for you?
- Describe some of the recent crazy painful stories of friends/family.

Start thinking.

- Read Matthew 1:18. What are the crazy painful dynamics at play among Mary, Joseph, their families, and the small town they live in?
- Read Matthew 1:19. What does it reveal about Joseph's character? What lesson can be learned from his response to the crazy pain of his circumstance?
- Read Matthew 1:20-21. Think through the order of the angel's message. What would have been the most immediately meaningful for Joseph?
- Read Matthew 1:22-23. Why did Matthew include this detail?
- Read Matthew 1:24. Based on Joseph's actions, how did he receive the message from the angel. What had changed in his heart and mind from when he fell asleep to when he awoke?

Start sharing.

- How do you most often respond to the crazy pain of life?
- Why is it tempting to view "with us" as a simple bumper sticker slogan?
- Why does it matter to you that God is "with us"?

Start doing.

- Immanuel is a compound word using the Hebrew name of God (El) at the end. Joel called out several of the ways that name is used to describe God in the Old Testament. Listen to that portion of the message again and write down those descriptions that speak to your situation most.

Closing prayer.

Jesus, thank you that you see me, know me, hear me, are for me, and are with me. Help me to cling to you and your promises through the crazy pain of life. Help me Lord to walk with confidence in the knowledge that as bad as things get, you will be with me through all of it. Help me move forward knowing that though worse may come, your best for me, your Spirit will never leave me.