

With Us

Free To Live (Wk.2)

LifeNotes

TALK IT OVER

Main Idea

“With us” means we can be free from sin, free from death and can be set free to live.

Key Scriptures

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”). Matthew 1:22-23

Because on this day atonement will be made for you, to cleanse you. Then, before the LORD, you will be clean from all your sins. Leviticus 16:30

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23

And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life. 1 John 5:11-13

The message of Immanuel is this: God is present, purposeful, and persistently pursuing me.

Left to ourselves, the mistakes & sins of our past follow us and seek to define our futures.

Sin’s wages are paid in daily accusations with death as the final payment.

Start talking.

- Who are folks from your past that began to identify with their mistakes? How did that impact their direction in life?
- Why is it so tempting to view ourselves as the sum total of our bad decisions?
- What is it about our human nature that also makes it easy to identify others by their mistakes and sin?

Start thinking.

- Read Matthew 1:22-23. How does that verse affirm that God is, “present, purposeful, and persistently pursuing” you?
- Read Leviticus 16:30. This verse describes the establishment of the Jewish day of Yom Kippur (the Day of Atonement). Why was it necessary?
- Joel described the idea of being on the “atonement hamster wheel”. What did he mean by that?
- Read Romans 6:23. Why does our sin result in death?
- How does the gift of Jesus give us access to the gift of eternal life?
- How does that gift impact our daily lives?

Start sharing.

- If “sin’s wages are paid in daily accusations”, what are the accusations you most often experience?
- How do those accusations begin to form your identity?
- How does this idea that Jesus is, “with us” enable you to combat those accusations?

Start doing.

- Sin’s accusations are constant and often overwhelming. The free gift of Jesus and his love, forgiveness, and grace are our best defense. Read the following article and remind yourself of who Jesus says you are.
<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/what-god-thinks-about-you>

Closing prayer.

Jesus I confess I so often fall short of your standard. Time and again I settle for less than your best in my life. Thank you though, that through your death on the cross and your resurrection, you have overwhelmingly paid the price for my mistakes and sins. Help me to daily place my faith in you and rest in my identity as your precious child. Renew my spirit and give me the courage to live free from my past.