

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE



**PRINCE
OF PEACE**
Called to Connect



**WELCOME
THE SEASONS**

*Lessons &
Carols*

Lessons & Carols

December 26, 2021

The good news of Christmas is that we realize that God hasn't been separate from all of troubles and pain but has come right here into the middle of all of it. Jesus truly is Immanuel – God is with us.

SCRIPTURE TEXT: JOHN 1:1-4, 14

Read the scripture text together as a group.

BACKGROUND INFO

We just celebrated the birth of Jesus, in Bethlehem. We enjoy the story about Mary and Joseph, their trip to Bethlehem, the birth in a stable, the visit of the shepherds and wisemen; we enjoy seeing the children present the nativity play and delight in their very simple understanding of the events of Christmas. However, too often we don't go any further than the simple story. The deeper celebration, the true joy of Christmas, is the celebration of God becoming one of us. And God comes into our lives in the thick of everything. The good times and the hard times! Jesus is God within us so that in the midst of our agonies in this life, we are not alone.

Jesus has come and lived in our world; He has become part of our life of confused priorities, of aching bodies, of heartbreak and loneliness. Christmas tells us God is not aloof and separate from our world. God is in the world with us and is always within us, and holds us tight even though we are far from perfect, even when we feel unattractive and unlovable. God's love for us never changes. And God knows what it means to feel the way we do. God has a special Word for you, today. This Word is Jesus who came let us know just how much we are loved. Unconditionally and forever! It was for this reason that we have Christmas and continue to celebrate it to this day

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Share a story about your favorite Christmas moment this year.
- Read this scripture passage again, replacing "the Word" with Jesus. How does that impact you?
- God loves us so much that he sent his son to be WITH us. How does believing that love change you?
- How does this message of hope and love for us extend beyond this Christmas season?

APPLICATION: This week, spend some time thanking God for sending Jesus to be WITH us. Soak in that love for you and for our world. No matter what is happening in your life, God is with you and loving you always.