

Create



✓ Prepare in Advance

Facilitator: In advance of the session:

- Provide pens/pencils and paper for the writing option or keep an ongoing journal for participants to return to or take home each week.
- Provide and keep a collection of art supplies for each week including but not limited to: crayons, chalk, color pencils, markers, glue, tissue paper, colored construction paper, paint brushes, watercolors, finger paints, scissors, and a variety of scrapbooking paper and old magazines.
- Have the *Bible Background Video* ready to view.

✓ Breath of God

Ask someone to read 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16. Then, show the *Bible Background Video*.

Say: In our text today, God promises that no matter what God will never leave David or his offspring and that David's line will never end. I can't help but be reminded during this Advent Season that the Christ-child would be called Emmanuel, "God with us." Yet another reminder that God was willing to become flesh and walk among humanity, as one of us. There are times in our lives where "God with us" is very, very real. Think about those very precious moments in your life when you experienced God as present and active in your life.

Invite each participant to choose either the Writing or Visual approach and spend the next 20-25 minutes with that experience.

✓ Create- Writing

Angela Alaimo O'Donnell penned this poem called "Emmanuel."

From the cave of darkness a baby comes to light.
 In the nick of time eternity tonight.
 In a world of error a perfect child is birthed.
 In the midst of terror peace arrives on earth.
 In the chill of winter dawn this blazing son.
 To a world of sinners comes this sinless one.
 In the land of chaos speaks this single Word
 Whose voice can raise the dead, who promise can be
 heard.
 Even as he cries sleepers stir beneath the sod
 For nothing is impossible with God.¹

¹The Christian Century, December 13, 2011

After reading this poem several times and meditating upon it, write a poem of your own about the Christ-child, Emmanuel, God with us. Your poem could be about Jesus' birth or about the presence of Emmanuel during a struggle in your own life. Be creative. Write freely as the emotion stirs inside you.

✓ Create- Visual

Using the art supplies provided, create:

Read the poem in the "Write" section. Read through it several times and meditate upon its meaning in your life. Bring these words to life using images and colors. Try creating a "stained glass" style piece of art using torn tissue paper or torn construction paper. Write this poem or one of your own on the back of your art.

✓ Share

Call the group together. Ask participants to share their creations and their meaning.

✓ Close

Offer a prayer thanking God for being ever-present in our lives, for coming to this earth as "one of us" to walk among us.

(After the session, consider finding a way to share the creations of the group- post pictures on Facebook, on a church website, or in a portfolio/frames kept either in a public place in the church or in your group's special gathering place).

By Carra Hughes Greer