

CONN³CT

Small Group Bible Study

3rd Advent LOVE

December 11, 2011

The word Advent stems from the Latin word *adventus*, meaning “coming.” Advent is a time of both preparation, as we prepare our hearts to honor the birth of Christ, and of celebration that He has come and will come again.

LOVE.

Matthew 1:22-23 NLT - All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us.)

What is the significance of the name Immanuel?

Read John 1:1-5 & Hebrews 1:1-4

What do we learn about Jesus Christ from these two introductions? How does this correspond with the name “Immanuel?”

Read 1 John 4:16. Why is God WITH us such an important concept in understanding God’s love FOR us?

John 3:16 NLT “For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.”

What does it mean to “perish” according to Romans 6:23, and what is the gift that Christ offers?

Read 1 John 4:17-18. How does perfect love expel all fear? What does this passage mean to you when you consider a. your everyday life, and b. eternity?

How did Christ demonstrate His love for us according to Romans 5:7-9. What is significant about the statement “while we were still sinners?”

Move on to Romans 8:38-39.

Consider your own walk with God. What assurance do you take from this passage?

As we continue towards our celebration of Christ’s birth both personally and as a church family, consider the following questions.

1. What does it mean to walk in this love from day to day?
2. How do I live out this love into the lives of others?

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 NLT - Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.

