

Christmas

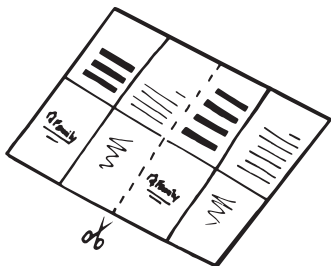
TABLE CARDS

Whether you are gathering with two or twenty people this Christmas, we hope these cards will help create an atmosphere of joy. Each card includes a Bible verse and question to inspire reflection and conversation. Use them during your Christmas meal to help you draw near to Immanuel — God With Us — and one another.

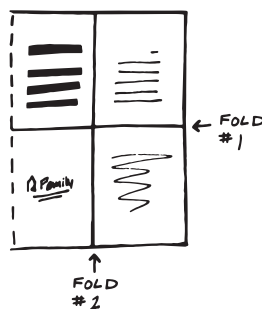
Instructions and Tips:

- Print these cards (one-sided). Note: If your printer cuts off part of the page, choose "Print to Fit" in your printer options.
- You will find two cards on each page. Cut them apart along the dotted line and then fold each side twice to create two mini-cards.
- Place a card at each setting around your holiday dinner table. Print a few extra to allow guests to find a card that interests them.
- Close your time of reflection with the enclosed devotional reading.

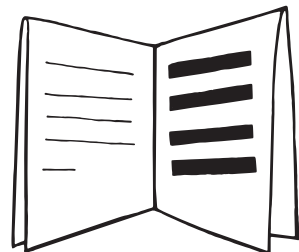
Step 1



Step 2



Step 3



Christmas

DEVOTIONAL

Read Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." 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). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

The Christmas season can get crazy, with shopping, parties, and activities. Yet we should not lose sight of the wonder of it all. It is miraculous that God chose to dwell with us. Our God's love was so great that he could not leave us alone in our suffering. He chose to be our Immanuel – our God with us. Jesus traded the joys of heaven to suffer and die for us. For us he came, for us he died, and for us he rose again. We have not been abandoned, God makes his home with us. We are never alone, God walks with us through every trial. God stepped down to this earth because of his great love. He so loved this world that he sent his only son that we should not perish, but instead have eternal life. As we celebrate the holidays let us not lose sight of God's greatest blessing. God has come and continues to come to us in love.

Lord, thank you for choosing to stoop down to dwell with us. We praise you for the amazing gift of your son. We are so blessed to have your presence always with us.

Thank you for being our Immanuel.

In Christ's name we pray, amen,

God With Us

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

LUKE 2:14

What is your favorite Christmas song?



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God With Us

"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us).

MATTHEW 1:23

How has Immanuel, God with Us, come close to you this year?



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Do not neglect to
show hospitality
to strangers, for
thereby some have
entertained angels
unawares.

HEBREWS 13:2

**How have
you been
blessed by
showing
hospitality to
others?**



... remember the
words of the Lord
Jesus, how he himself
said, 'It is more
blessed to give than to
receive.'

ACTS 20:35B

**Share about
a gift you
were excited
to give to
someone.**



God With Us

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

ISAIAH 9:6



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It is traditional for Christians to retell the story of Jesus' birth at Christmas. Tell about another holiday tradition that is meaningful to you.



God With Us

And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people."

LUKE 2:10

Name a gift God has given you this year that has brought you joy.



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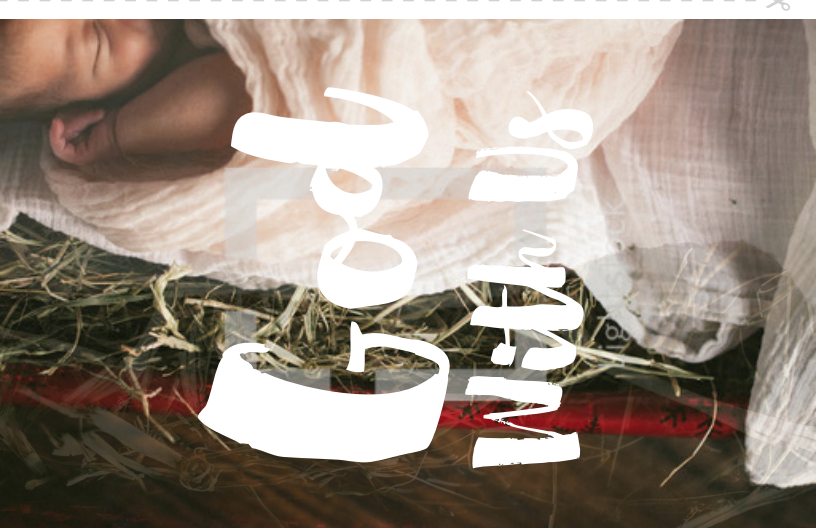
God With Us

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

JOHN 3:16



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God With Us

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.

2 CORINTHIANS 8:9



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Tell about someone who made Christmas special for you.



God With Us

For unto you is
born this day in
the city of David
a Savior, who is
Christ the Lord.

LUKE 2:11

**Tell about a
time when
the Christmas
story became
real to you.**



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God With Us

Then, opening their
treasures, they offered
him gifts, gold and
frankincense and
myrrh.

MATTHEW 2:11B

**Share about
a special gift
that brought
you joy.**



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God With Us

And walk in love,
as Christ loved
us and gave
himself up for us,
a fragrant offering
and sacrifice to
God.

EPHESIANS 5:2



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**What smells
make you
think about
Christmas?**



God With Us

And Joseph also went
up from Galilee, from
the town of Nazareth,
to Judea, to the city of
David, which is called
Bethlehem....

LUKE 2:4A

**Where
would be
your favorite
place to
spend
Christmas
and why?**



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God With Us

The lines have
fallen for me in
pleasant places;
indeed, I have
a beautiful
inheritance.

PSALM 16:6



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**What special
Christmas
traditions or
memories
have you
inherited
from your
family or
friends?**

God With Us

Every good gift and
every perfect gift is
from above, coming
down from the Father
of lights with whom
there is no variation
or shadow due to
change.

JAMES 1:17



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**Name a gift
or talent
that God has
given you.
How have
you used
that gift
during this
Christmas
season?**

God With Us



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Rejoice greatly,
O daughter of
Zion! Shout aloud,
O daughter of
Jerusalem! Behold,
your king is coming
to you...

ZECHARIAH 9:9A

**What is your
favorite way
to celebrate
Christmas?**



God With Us



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So, whether you eat or
drink, or whatever you
do, do all to the glory
of God.

1 CORINTHIANS 10:31

**What is your
favorite
Christmastime
food? Why is it
special to you?**





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God
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May God give
you of the dew
of heaven and of
the fatness of the
earth and plenty of
grain and wine.

GENESIS 27:28

**What is your
favorite food
to make at
Christmas?**



Saying, "Where is he
who has been born
king of the Jews? For
we saw his star when
it rose and have come
to worship him."

MATTHEW 2:2

**Tell us about
a favorite
Christmas
program
you have
watched and
why it was
special to
you.**



God With Us

And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.

LUKE 2:12

Tell us about a Christmas celebration that was a blessing to you.



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God With Us

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior!"

LUKE 1:46-47

What is your favorite part of the Christmas holiday and why?



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