
Cornerstone Women's Ministry Connect Groups 2022
"What's in a Name? The Name of Jesus"

Week of February 7 through week of April 4

**"Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him
the name that is above every name, so that at the name of
Jesus every knee should bow..."**

Philippians 2:9-10

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Dear Sister in Christ,

To know Jesus, to know His name, is foundational to our walk of faith. Having the authority of that name, "Jesus", on our lips, brings calm, healing, joy, power, strength and encouragement. Sometimes, I just stop and let out a sigh and say, "Jesus," and immediately, peace that cannot be humanly explained sweeps over me. That's why I believe this study of the names of Jesus will bring greater revelation to all of us - there is just no other name like the name of Jesus.

Jesus, it's not just a name, it is the most significant name of all. The Word of God tells us in Philippians 2: 9-10 that Jesus has been given "the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow-in heaven and on earth and under the earth." CSB

The name of Jesus means "Yahweh saves" or "Yahweh is salvation." Yahweh is a combination of Ya, an abbreviation for Yahweh, the name of Israel's God, "God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." and he said, "Say to the people of Israel: 'I AM has sent me to you.'" Exodus 3:14 ESV

Jesus was very popular in Judea during the first century - which is why he was called "Jesus of Nazareth," referring to his hometown, the town of Nazareth in Galilee. It may be common to some but to followers of the Lord, Jesus is remarkably significant. Sent by God for a particular purpose, Jesus' name bears witness to that mission. "God sent His Son Jesus to save us." "But when the set time had fully come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under the law to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship." Galatians 4:4-5

Important not only because of the meaning of the name of Jesus but because Whom it represents. Power and authority are in the person of Christ Jesus, and, of course, He is designated by the name...Jesus.

Over the next few weeks we will discover His distinctive character, work and nature. We will discover that Jesus lives up to His name reminding us of the power, the purpose and the presence of the resurrected Christ. His name assures us that God's gracious intention is to save us. Jesus brought God to humanity, and He now brings humans to God through the salvation He purchased. When we speak or act in the name of Jesus, we do so as representatives with His authority. We as believers are to live our lives in the name of Jesus, bringing glory to the Father. "And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him." Colossians 3:17 ESV

Whether you are in a women's ministry On Campus Connect Group on Tuesdays or in an Off Campus Connect Group, our prayer is that during the next few weeks, we will gain a greater understanding of the name of Jesus and have a greater knowledge of how to live in such a way to glorify Him.

To the Name Above All Names! Jesus...

Carol Danna, Almalee Knudsen & Cornerstone Women's Ministry Leadership Team

The Word

Notes

(This

Teaching Video available ccanaheim.com Messages)

"In the beginning the Word already existed, the Word was with God and the Word was God." John 1:11 NLT

Everything we _____ on to live, Jesus did that

"He existed in the beginning with God. God created everything through Him and nothing was created except through Him. The Word gave life to everything that was created, and His life brought light to everyone. The light shines in the darkness and the darkness can never extinguish it." John 1:2-5 NLT

Don't _____, Jesus is the Light of the World

"the light shines in the darkness and the darkness can never extinguish it."

The name of Jesus _____, even the ones we bring on ourselves

"And a great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that it was already filling. But He (Jesus) was in the stern, asleep on a pillow. And they awoke Him and said to Him, "Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?" Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, 'Peace, be still!' And the wind ceased and there was a great calm. Mark 4:37-39

Jesus is the _____ Word

"My dear children, I am writing this to you so that you will not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate who pleads our case before the Father. He is Jesus Christ, the one who is truly righteous. ²He himself is the sacrifice that atones for our sins—and not only our sins but the sins of all the world." 1 John 2:1-2

Jesus is God's _____

"It is finished." John 19:30

Jesus _____ Us

"Lord, help!" they cried in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress. He sent out His word and healed them, snatching them from the door of death." Psalms 107:19-20

"The rain and snow come down from the heavens and stay on the ground to water the earth. They cause the grain to grow, producing seed for the farmer and bread for the hungry. It is the same with my word. I send it out, and it always produces fruit. It will accomplish all I want it to, and it will prosper everywhere I send it." Isa. 55:10-11

_____ is The Word

"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth." I like the way the Message puts it *"The word became flesh and blood and moved into the neighborhood. We saw the glory*

with our own eyes, the one-of-a-kind glory, like Father, like Son, generous inside and out true from start to finish. A loving, faithful, powerful God.” John 1:14 MSG

Meditate on This

Mediate on the knowledge of Jesus and let the Holy Spirit reveal the depth and breadth of the power in the name of Jesus, the Word of God. This knowledge will change your life!

The Word Devotion week of February 7 - 12

"In the beginning the Word already existed, the Word was with God and the Word was God." John 1:11 NLT

The English dictionary defines 'Word' as a distinct element of speech used to communicate. Words are so important. Choosing how we say something and what words we use can bring joy, pain or even anger. Basically, history tells us that words are the sign of the start of civilization. So, it only stands to reason the name Word fits Jesus. He is the start of all we know. As we read, He existed in the beginning and He was not just with God, He was God. Do you think this sounds confusing? Let's look at what John 1:2-5 says *"He existed in the beginning with God. God created everything through Him and nothing was created except through Him. The Word gave life to everything that was created, and His life brought light to everyone. The light shines in the darkness and the darkness can never extinguish it."* NLT

That is powerful. Think about it for a moment, everything came into existence because Jesus spoke it into existence. The earth, the stars, the plants, animals and even bugs and reptiles, and of course us. Everything we count on to live, Jesus did that.

I also love the last part of that verse *"the light shines in the darkness and the darkness can never extinguish it."* We live in a dark world and it almost seems hopeless, everything we thought we could count on is changing or failing. But we mustn't lose heart. Jesus is the light of the world and we are told that the darkness can never extinguish the light.

When we can grasp this concept, I believe we start to realize how powerful, all-encompassing the name of Jesus truly is. In Mark 4, we see some of that power, this is when Jesus and disciples were crossing the sea in a boat. Verse 37-39 *"And a great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that it was already filling. But He (Jesus) was in the stern, asleep on a pillow. And they awoke Him and said to Him, 'Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?'" Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, 'Peace, be still!' And the wind ceased and there was a great calm.*

Notice that Jesus spoke to the storm. Have you ever felt like you were in a storm, battered and buffeted by the winds of difficulty and adversity, or that you were about to drown in your problems? We battle many things in life, some we bring on ourselves, but many we have absolutely no control over, we live in a fallen world, full of illness, pain and pressure. Also, it is a time of many spiritual attacks. The name of Jesus is more powerful than any of these. The same person who spoke the universe into existence, and the storm over the lake to cease, can calm our storms. His word will cast out demons and conquer the very gates of Hell.

Jesus being the Word can be looked in a few ways. We have already talked about Jesus being the author of creation, the beauty around us the awesomeness of the stars, the uniqueness of a snowflake all created by the Word.

Jesus is the living Word which ushered in direct communication with God. In the past God used prophets to speak to His people, sharing His thoughts and intentions with a select few, who then told the message to the people. But with Jesus we have direct access to God. When Jesus came, God's word was spoken directly to anyone who would listen. After His death and resurrection God is accessible to anyone seeking Him. Jesus

is our advocate. 1 John 2:1-2 *"My dear children, I am writing this to you so that you will not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate who pleads our case before the Father. He is Jesus Christ, the one who is truly righteous. ²He himself is the sacrifice that atones for our sins—and not only our sins but the sins of all the world."* Jesus takes our case before the Father, He is our communication with God. Jesus provides access to the Father.

Jesus is God's final Word. He fulfills Old Testament prophecies that point to Him. He not only set in motion, but finished God's redemptive plan for His people. The entire Old Testament points to Jesus. When we studied the Tabernacle, we saw the symbolism of the implements used in sacrifice and worship. All the prophets spoke of a Messiah or pointed toward a coming king. In John 19:30, Jesus, while on the cross spoke these words "It is finished" This was the fulfillment of God's redemptive plan. Jesus is the Word of God made accessible to all, it is the ultimate manifestation of God's love.

When Jesus ascended to Heaven, He left us the Holy Spirit, the third member of the Trinity. The Holy Spirit speaks to us. He guides us, reveals Jesus to us and helps us understand the depths of God and His word. He also delivers us, cautions us and intervenes in our lives, if we let Him.

I have a couple of examples of God using the Holy Spirit to direct us. My niece Stephanie and her tribe have been living in the trailer half in their backyard and half on the driveway for a few months while their home is being remodeled. A neighbor a couple doors down had an argument with the resident across the street. Police were involved and things seemed to settle down. A couple nights later my niece and family were asleep, when she suddenly heard a voice say, get up get the kids on the floor. She woke her husband and they grabbed the kids and laid on the floor just a shots and loud voices rang out. There were several shots fired from both neighbors. By the time the Police arrived one neighbor was dead and the other injured. We truly believe that the Holy Spirit woke them and protected them. God sent His Word and delivered them.

He often corrects us or points us in the direction that is best for us. My example takes place when I was working, It was back in the days where not many women were in management and there was a manager I work with, we had the same job over different sections and had to often meet to be sure everything coordinated well for the department. After one such meeting with our manager that approved a plan of action my group suggested, I got a rude, out of the blue message from him suggesting in many sentences that I was not a good manager and had no business being in the position. He said I got the job only because I was a woman.

I left work shortly after reading this and was very angry and plotting ways to get even. It was a long drive so when I marginally calmed down, I prayed. I asked God to change this other manager and bring to light how dishonest he was and how he treated others, I wanted God to change him or move him. After my rant I very clearly heard the Holy Spirit say, "there is only one person I can change in this situation, are you willing to change." I thought, why me? He's in the wrong, I didn't do anything. Once again, I heard, "but you follow me, are you willing to change?" I said yes then change me and my attitude toward him. And he did, I no longer disliked him and wanted to get even. God changed my heart and my attitude. (Eventually it worked out fine and all this manager's dealings came to light. By that time, I didn't care.) Psalms 107:19-20 *"Lord, help!" they cried in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress. He sent out His word and healed them,*

snatching them from the door of death.” Isaiah 55:10-11 “The rain and snow come down from the heavens and stay on the ground to water the earth. They cause the grain to grow, producing seed for the farmer and bread for the hungry. It is the same with my word. I send it out, and it always produces fruit. It will accomplish all I want it to, and it will prosper everywhere I send it.”

Jesus is The Word. We also have the Bible (God’s Word) to show us everything we need to know. I read this in a study I was doing recently “When we think of spending time in the Word, we often think of merely reading the Bible. And while studying Scripture is important, it should always drive us to deep relationship with Jesus. So, let your time in the Word drive you to spend time with the Word. Talk to him, invite Him to speak into your life and then listen to the Word”.

Remember, God revealed Himself to us through Jesus, John 1:14 says it best. *“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”* I like the way the Message puts it *“The word became flesh and blood and moved into the neighborhood. We saw the glory with our own eyes, the one-of-a-kind glory, like Father, like Son, generous inside and out true from start to finish. A loving, faithful, powerful God.”* Mediate on this knowledge of Jesus and let the Holy Spirit reveal the depth and breadth of the power in the name of Jesus, the Word of God. This knowledge will change your life!

Questions:

1. Why do you think it's important to understand the concept that Jesus is called the Word and that He was with God during creation and that He was God?
2. John thought it was important enough to emphasis twice that Jesus was the Word. Discuss why you think that matters?
3. The name of Jesus is powerful, what was a time in your life that this truth was demonstrated to you?

Prayer:

Thank you, Jesus, for your love and the power of Your name. Help me to always rely on You in all circumstances. Teach me the authority I have in Your name and help me walk in Your ways. Jesus, thank You for being the Word and showing me through scripture how to live a life pleasing to You. Amen

Light of the World Devotional week of February 14-19

When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

John 8:12

This portion of scripture is understood in the context of the ceremony that took place each night in the temple courts where 2 large Menorah's would be lit and shower the entire temple court with light. This is what Jesus is referring to when He declares "I am the light of the world. John 8:12 in The Message says, *"Jesus once again addressed them, "I am the world's Light. No one who follows me stumbles around in the darkness. I provide plenty of light to live in."*

As I am reading this what strikes me is that it says when Jesus spoke "AGAIN" to the people. Jesus was intent on telling people who He was and is. He wants people, all people, it wasn't just to the Jews, ALL people, if you know me (not just about me), if you walk with me, abide in me, obey my words and just stay connected, I will light up your life!

I don't know about you, but like NEVER BEFORE, I not only realize how much I NEED the LIGHT OF THE WORLD, I WANT His light like never before. The world, the lost world, is walking in such darkness - they are literally walking in to walls. Jesus even said in John 12: 35, *"He that walks in darkness does not know where he is going."*

When I was about 13, we were camping in Yosemite Valley. My brothers and I were given permission to venture out on our own one evening to Camp Curry. Well, you know how it goes with brothers, about 30 minutes in to our adventure, they wanted to go one way and I wanted to go another so I decided to go back to our campground - and being the over confident teen that I was, I told them I would just go on my own. Now I had never navigated the shuttle through the valley on my own and got off at the wrong stop, I didn't realize I exited off at Happy Isles which was way on the other side of the valley and it suddenly became very dark, very, very, very dark. There I stood, the shuttle driving away and I was all alone in pitch dark, no flash light. I knew that I didn't want to head toward the sound of water, so I went in a direction I thought would take me back to our camp site. I walked for quite a while, and it being dark was really just a guess. It was dark but not quiet, I could hear shuffling leaves, water rushing but no human voices or even a shuttle. I began crying, and crying out, "Mom, Dad, Bill, Robert, any one hear me." I kept walking, crying, calling out. Suddenly I saw a small light from a flash light and I heard, "Carol, Carol Ruth, Carol, is that you?" My brother Bill, my mom and brother Robert came rushing toward me. That small light, lit up the entire area and they rushed to me and put their arms around me. The bright light, although just a small flash light was a beacon of hope that I had been found. The warmth of their embrace and thanks for the Lord helping them find me, will never be forgotten. That's what light is for, to light the darkness. I am so thankful for The Light. I am thankful He found me. Isn't that the message Jesus kept speaking "I am THE Light of the World." "Come to me, you're lost, I know the way." "Let me Light up your life."

Questions:

1. What does the New Testament teach about who is associated with light? John 1:4-5 ESV *"In him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."* 1 John 1:5-7 *"This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. 6 If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. 7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin."* Ephesians 5:8-14 *"for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light 9 (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), 10 and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. 11 Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. 12 For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. 13 But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, 14 for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."*

(Answers will vary: Light overcomes darkness - we can overcome darkness with the light of Jesus. If we are walking in the Light we will walk in truth. We are to walk as children of the light, please the Lord and not take part in unfruitful works of darkness.)

2. What is the responsibility of those who are living in the light of Christ? Matthew 5:14-16 *"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."*

(Answers: To be the light, to shine brightly before others, not to hide the light...)

3. How has the light of Jesus overcome the darkness that used to consume your life? How has the light of Christ changed you? (varied answers)

4. How have you shared the light of Jesus with those who are walking in darkness? What was the biggest challenge in sharing the light of Jesus? (great chance to allow people to share about their challenges and successes in sharing The Light)

Prayer:

"Dear Father, Thank you for sending your Son to be the Light of the World, for being my light. Thank you that Your Light has and will never go out. Thank You that You keep Your Word and that you won the victory over darkness on the cross and You reign as the Light of the World. Help me to reflect Your light. Amen."

Alpha and Omega Devotion week of February 21-26

"I am the Alpha and the Omega—the beginning and the end," says the Lord God. "I am the one who is, who always was, and who is still to come—the Almighty One."

Revelations 1:8

This name of Jesus, Alpha and Omega, is an all-encompassing description. When I was a child the explanation I was given was that Alpha is the first letter of the Greek alphabet and Omega is the last, like A and Z is in English. So, Jesus is the first and the last. This is a simple explanation for the name. Too simple. I find that you need to look alot deeper for the true meaning. It's not just beginning and end, it is everything in between. All of it, everything. All the minutiae of life the everyday event, highs and lows. Acts 17:28 *"for in Him we live and move and have our being,"* from beginning to end and everything in between Jesus was and is and will be. Nothing is outside His presence He rules over all creation." Colossians 1:16-17 *"for through him God created everything in the heavenly realms and on earth. He made the things we can see and the things we can't see— such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world. Everything was created through him and for him. He existed before anything else, and he holds all creation together."*

It's a lot more complex than just A-Z, it encompasses all knowledge and all of time. Jesus was even before creation and will be for all eternity. One of the most important facts, in my opinion is found in Hebrews 12:2 *"looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."* There we have it ,Jesus created all things and then was sure we could be in heaven with Him by scripting a plan of salvation and willing died for our sins. Now that's love.

In thinking about this concept of Jesus working through all we do and all we are, in everything, I was looking for an example and was provided one just after Christmas. I was up North for Christmas and had a wonderful time with family. It rained the entire time I was there. North of them in Tahoe they got 17 feet of snow. When it was time to come home, I knew I had better check the weather, even though where I was it had stopped raining and was beautiful. The one thing about Northern California is they don't keep tract of Southern California, so there was no news about road conditions. I tried the Highway patrol site and Google Earth and the best I could find was that it was raining on the Grapevine. No problem I can do rain. So, I started home at about 9:30 am, it is about 380 miles and 6 hours. Just my dog, Otis, in the backseat and me driving. At about 120 from the Grapevine was the one and only notice from Cal Trans "GRAPEVINE CLOSED." Wow, too late to go back, so you have to go around. I stopped bought gas I didn't need yet and asked a trucker if it was closed temporarily, he said no it was closed indefinitely. Double Wow.

So, after asking On Star and the trucker I decided to get to a highway that goes to Mohave. High 58, ok, no problem except that half the world was on it. After 1 hour and 4 miles, I asked GPS for an alternate route. Found one and stated my journey. It seemed OK but eventually it took me through Kern Canyon. Two lanes, one each way and hardly any pull offs. I started getting nervous and was praying for peace. Just then my sister Sharon called me and said, "I can see by your tracker where you are. Don't be afraid this

road eventually takes you to Highway 14, that's what you want to get home. She prayed with me and then we lost the signal. I went over a pass with snow through very small towns with no cell phone reception. But she kept calling and eventually I got to Mohave. Than Highway 14 across to Lancaster, Palmdale and finally the 5 Freeway. I have to admit I was scared, or at least nervous on more than one occasion.

I know this was a long story to illustrate my point, but looking back I could see God's hand in all of it. We started with prayer, when I was off track and getting nervous, my sister felt she should check my route and call, and keep calling, praying with me. Met some nice people at Mohave stop that even let me bring Otis into store for water and a break. I felt God's presence even when I had no idea where I was. I got home at about 9:00 pm. As I looked at the journey I thought, that's a great example of Jesus being in everything, the good part and the scary part. He made a way through it all. From beginning to end, every twist, every turn there was Jesus.

To me it was a perfect example of our story, Jesus the Alpha and Omega, is not just part of our world from creation to eternity, but our life from beginning to end Jesus is there. Good times, bad times, terrible times, scary times and joyous times, every twist every decision (good and bad) He's got us.

Wherever you are on this journey know He has gone before you and He is with you, and when it's over you will be in eternity with Him. He also does this for everyone who belongs to Him. From start to finish Jesus is in it all.

When you look at the events around you, it should bring you comfort and assurance to know that Jesus is in everything that affects your life. He is in everything that affects His world. He has not abandoned us or is too busy to notice. Jesus is at the beginning, all the stuff in between and the end. Jesus, the Center of it All.

"I will never fail you. I will never abandon you" Hebrews 13: 5b

"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever." Hebrews 13:8

Questions:

1. Can you give an example when you have seen God at work in the midst of trouble or difficulties?
2. What does it mean in your words that Jesus is the Alpha and Omega in your individual walk with Him?
3. In what area of your life do you need to turn to trust Him today?
4. Please share a scripture you depend on to remind you that Jesus is with you.

Prayer:

Jesus, Thank You, for always going before me and walking beside me through my life. Help me to trust you even when I can't see or feel you in my circumstances. I thank You for coming and willingly dying for me that I could know You. Help me realize that You fill every area of my life and nothing is too much to bear if you are with me. Amen

Immanuel Devotion week of February 28 - March 5

*"And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."
Matthew 28:20*

The miracle of salvation is that the God of the universe made a bold and outrageous choice, He chose to come to earth as a baby, Jesus took up residence right here with you and me, He set up shop right here on earth. *"And the Word became flesh and took up residence among us, and we saw his glory, glory as of the one and only from the Father, full of grace and truth."* (John 1:14 LEB) Even Mary questioned how this elaborate scheme could be when the angel Gabriel greeted her with the news she would conceive the Son of God. Gabriel responded in Luke 1:35 NIV, *"The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy child shall be called the Son of God."*

Isaiah the prophet spoke the same news of the virgin birth, declaring that the son would be called Immanuel, "God with us." Isaiah told us the who and what of Jesus' birth, but it was Gabriel who brought the news of how: "The Holy Spirit will come upon you...and for that reason the holy child shall be called the Son of God."

As we contemplate this miracle "God with us" by the power of the Holy Spirit that came upon Mary, we celebrate that through Jesus, the Holy Spirit is still available to us today. Jesus told His disciples that it was actually good that He would leave, that they would then receive the gift and power of the Holy Spirit. You see, on earth, Jesus was fully God and fully man—He could only be in one place at a time. But through the power of the Holy Spirit, each of us has access to Him all the time, wherever we are!

Making it possible for Him to be present with us on earth, the Holy Spirit, who conceived Jesus in Mary's womb, is the same Spirit that Jesus said would come in His place to always be with us...always.

Remember that long road you walked, and you thought you couldn't take one more step and then you felt strength? Jesus was with you. The time your hope was waning and you were losing hope but hope broke through? Jesus was with you. Recall the shame of your sin, the brokenness from your rebellion, but that moment you surrendered to Him and became whole? Jesus was with you.

Through the power of the Holy Spirit, when God sent His Son, He created and confirmed a lasting presence for those who acknowledge Him as their Lord.

Give the Holy Spirit permission to move through you in power with the gifts God set in motion long ago to resonate in your heart. Wherever you are today, be assured and confident that Immanuel has come for you. He didn't just come to occupy a manger, a cross, or a tomb—He came to live in your heart through the everlasting power of His Holy Spirit. He is always with you...always.

*"Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel."
Isaiah 7:14 ESV*

*"And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you."
John 14:16-17 ESV*

Questions:

1. What does it mean to you personally to know Jesus as Immanuel? Share a time you experienced His nearness. How do you keep your relationship with Jesus alive? (Read John 15)
2. In what ways do you find yourself keeping Jesus at a distance living life like He is not a real person?
3. Let's live life as if Jesus is sitting beside us, right here in it all—because this is the truth, He is. He is right here. What will you do with that?

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, Thank You for sending Your Son to earth and giving me this blessed life. Knowing you love me so much and want to be with me always is humbling. Holy Spirit, help me to remember that no matter where I am, You are with me. Draw me closer to You. Help me to be a bearer of this truth so that others may celebrate the joy of salvation.