Session 1: Emmanuel — God with Us

Name: _____ Date: _____

Scripture: Isaiah 7:10–14; Matthew 1:18–23; Matthew 28:16–20

Main idea: God has sent His Son into our darkness to save us from sin and death.

DISCUSS & REFLECT

1. What does the name Emmanuel mean, and why is it good news?

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2. What kinds of darkness or uncertainty make it difficult to recognize God's presence?

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3. Why did Ahaz refuse the sign God offered? What does the promised child reveal about God?

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4. How does Jesus address our deepest enemies—sin and death—rather than only our immediate troubles?

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5. Where has Christ promised to be present for us, even when we do not feel close to Him?

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A LUTHERAN LENS

Faith is created by the Holy Spirit through the Gospel (Ephesians 2:8–9; Small Catechism, Creed, Third Article). God assures us of His presence through His Word, Baptism, Absolution, and the Lord's Supper.

TAKE IT HOME One promise of Christ I want to remember this week:

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Session 2: Wonderful Counselor

Name: _____ Date: _____

Scripture: Isaiah 9:6; Hebrews 4:12–16; John 5:1–15

Main idea: Jesus knows our weaknesses, invites us to His mercy, and guides us by His Word.

DISCUSS & REFLECT

1. When do you find it hard to ask for help or guidance?

2. How does Hebrews 4:14–16 describe Jesus' response to our weakness and temptation?

3. What fears, sins, or burdens can we bring to Jesus in prayer?

4. How are repentance and a changed life different from trying to earn forgiveness?

5. How can Scripture, rather than feelings alone, guide us when we face difficult decisions?

A LUTHERAN LENS

The Law reveals our sin; the Gospel gives forgiveness for Christ's sake (1 John 1:8–9). Our obedience is the fruit of faith, not its price (Augsburg Confession IV and VI). God guides us through His revealed Word.

TAKE IT HOME A burden I want to bring to Christ in prayer:

Session 3: Everlasting Father

Name: _____ Date: _____

Scripture: Isaiah 9:6; Luke 15:11–32; 1 John 3:1

Main idea: The Messiah cares for His people with enduring love, and the Father welcomes sinners by grace.

DISCUSS & REFLECT

1. What images of fatherhood shape how people understand God?

2. What does the father do when the younger son returns in Luke 15?

3. What does the older brother's response reveal about self-righteousness?

4. Why does the title "Everlasting Father" not mean Jesus is the same person as God the Father?

5. How does Christ's saving work give us assurance of God's mercy without denying the seriousness of sin?

A LUTHERAN LENS

"Everlasting Father" describes the Son's enduring, fatherly care; the Son remains distinct from the Father (Athanasian Creed). God judges sin, yet reconciles sinners through Christ (Romans 5:1, 9).

TAKE IT HOME One way the Father's mercy challenges or comforts me:

Session 4: I AM

Name: _____ Date: _____

Scripture: Exodus 3:13–15; John 8:58; Colossians 3:1–17; Luke 2:1–20

Main idea: Jesus is the great I AM, our Savior and the source of our new life.

DISCUSS & REFLECT

1. What does God's name "I AM" reveal about who He is?

2. What does Jesus reveal about Himself when He uses "I AM" language?

3. What does it mean that our life is "hidden with Christ in God" (Colossians 3:3)?

4. Which qualities in Colossians 3:12–17 would you like to grow in, and why?

5. How do Baptism and the Holy Spirit change the way we understand "taking on" Christ's name?

A LUTHERAN LENS

The Holy Spirit creates faith through the Gospel (Romans 10:17). In Baptism God places His name on us and clothes us with Christ (Matthew 28:19; Galatians 3:27). Good works follow salvation; they do not cause it.

TAKE IT HOME One way I can live in gratitude for Christ's gifts this Advent: