

# Small Group Discussion Guide

“Christmas Spirit” (pt. 1) – 12/7/2014

**Scripture:** John 14:17-29

**Bottom Line:** God is always with you in the Holy Spirit.

**INTRODUCTION:** What are your Christmas traditions?

## UNPACKING THE GOSPEL IN THE BIBLE:

**Read John 14:17-29**

What does Emmanuel mean?

- Emmanuel means “God with us”. This word marks a massive shift in human history. God the Son comes to earth and becomes a man named Jesus. He came to deliver us from slavery to sin and restore us to a right relationship with God.

How is God with us now?

- Now that Jesus has ascended into heaven, God the Holy Spirit has descended to dwell in us. He is changing us to be more like Jesus in love, mercy, justice, etc.

What are your first impressions when someone speaks of the Holy Spirit?

What does this passage teach you about the Holy Spirit?

- The Holy Spirit is God's gracious gift to us.
- The Holy Spirit is God's proof that he is for us not against us. He is our helper.
- The Holy Spirit is a who, not a what. (The world cannot sense the Holy Spirit. Amazing!)
- The Holy Spirit is fully God; therefore, God is always with Christians.
- The Holy Spirit gives peace to those troubled and afraid.

Pastor Adam spoke about the Trinity this week. Discuss this concept of God with your group and try to help them understand. However, it is completely understandable if some just don't understand. Here is a helpful description of the Trinity: God is one being who eternally exists as 3 different persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Each person is fully God, and yet there is only one God.

## LIVING OUT THE GOSPEL IN MY EVERYDAY LIFE:

In what ways does the continual presence of the Holy Spirit affect your life?

Spend time thanking God for sending the Holy Spirit to be ever present with us.