



Part 3: To Remove Our Excuses

Bottom Line:

Christmas removes our excuses—if God drew near to us, we can draw near to others.

Scripture References:

- **Matthew 1:23** – Jesus is Immanuel, "God with us."
- **John 1:14** – The Word became flesh and dwelled among us.
- **1 John 4:9, 11, 19** – God's love demonstrated through Jesus calls us to love one another.

Key Points:

1. **The Christmas story removes excuses.**
 - Jesus entered a messy, broken world to dwell among us, which eliminates our excuses for avoiding difficult relationships or situations.
2. **God's love is unrelenting and personal.**
 - Jesus' life is the ultimate demonstration of God's grace and truth. He moved toward us in our brokenness, modeling how we should move toward others.
3. **Awareness leads to humility.**
 - When we recognize our own sin and the grace God has extended to us, it humbles us and inspires us to extend grace to others.
4. **Immanuel: God is with us.**
 - Jesus' name reminds us of His presence in all circumstances. If He didn't stay distant, neither should we.
5. **Christmas is a call to action.**
 - We're called to reflect Jesus' love by stepping into the uncomfortable and messy situations around us, especially during the holiday season.

Reflection:

The story of Christmas isn't just about what God did—it's about how we're called to respond. If God drew near, so should we, offering grace and love even when it's hard.