



Part 3: To Remove Our Excuses

Christmas reminds us of God's nearness and challenges us to extend His love to others. In this discussion, we'll consider how Jesus' birth calls us to navigate life's complicated and uncomfortable relationships with grace.

Discussion Questions

- What is something about the Christmas season that feels challenging?
- Does your family or origin get together at Christmas? Why or why not?
- For some of us Christmas is a reminder that there are: problems we can't solve, people we can't control, and expectations we can't meet. Which one of these does Christmas bring to light for you and why?
- **Read Matthew 1:23 and John 1:14.** What does it mean to you that Jesus came as "Immanuel, God with us"?
- How does Jesus' willingness to dwell among us challenge the way we approach difficult or messy relationships?
- **Read 1 John 4:9, 11, 19.** How does knowing God loved us first shape the way we love others?
- Think of a relationship in your life that feels "complicated." What's one step you can take to reflect God's love in that situation?
- How does recognizing your own need for grace impact how you offer grace to others?
- What excuses tend to hold you back from engaging with others, especially during the holidays?
- How can the example of Jesus inspire you to embrace humility and compassion in your relationships?
- What's one practical way your group can be a tangible blessing to someone in need this Christmas season?

Weekly Challenge

Reach out to someone you've been avoiding. Maybe it's a strained relationship or someone you've distanced yourself from. Send a message, make a call, or have coffee, and choose to move toward them this week instead of pulling away.