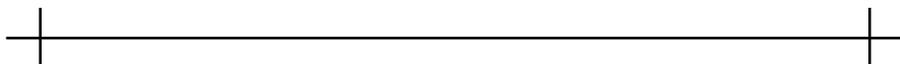


5. "God with us" John 1:14

"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth"

Focus: Are you aware of the presence of God? Jesus is Emmanuel - "God with us". He has chosen to make his dwelling place in our midst and promised to be with us for ever. Spend time in prayer, either individually or with one another, asking the Holy Spirit to open your eyes and to help you see the glory, grace and truth of the Lord who is among us now.



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The Walk of Encounter with Jesus Christ



Advent

...prepare the way for the Lord

Encountering Jesus Christ

In prayer, bring yourself into the presence of Jesus and ask, "Lord, speak to me through your word." Linger on each verse for as long as the Holy Spirit invites you to, prayerfully reflecting on the texts, listening to what the Lord says, and speaking with him. When the time is right, move to a new location and go on to the next step.

1. "Living in Hope" Isaiah 9:2

"The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned."

Focus: Where is the darkness in your life? What are the things that seem unclear, the route that is uncertain, or the things that cause doubts to arise? Bring them to the Lord, and ask Him to shine His light into your situation.

2. "The days are coming..." Jeremiah 23:5-6

"The days are coming,' declares the LORD, 'when I will raise up to David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. This is the name by which he will be called: The LORD Our Righteousness."

Focus: God promises the advent of a King who will be wise and whose reign will be righteous, and in Jesus we encounter the King whose life was totally right before God. Thank the Lord that through His wonderful love you have been put right with God and are a citizen of His kingdom. Do you have a growing desire to live in a way that is righteous in God's sight?

3. "Prepare the way for the Lord" Mark 1:2-4

"It is written in Isaiah the prophet: 'I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way - a voice of one calling in the desert, "Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'" And so John came, baptising in the desert region and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins."

Focus: What obstacles hinder the Lord's reign in your life? Prepare a clear path for Him, turning away from known sin and receiving the forgiveness that He offers.

4. "I am the Lord's servant" Luke 1:35-38

"The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. For nothing is impossible with God.' 'I am the Lord's servant,' Mary answered. 'May it be to me as you have said.' Then the angel left her."

Focus: God has a role for each of us in the work of His kingdom ...a role that may well go beyond our natural capabilities. Things that are impossible for us become wonderfully possible through the power of the Holy Spirit. What role is the Lord inviting you to fulfil? Rededicate yourself to serving the Lord and ask Him to empower you for this task by His Holy Spirit.