

God with us

Do you have a best friend? Someone that you go everywhere with? Someone that you're always spending time with, playing with, watching TV or a movie with, sharing screen time with? Someone you can talk to about anything? Someone you want to share your good news with, or someone you can talk to about when life is hard? Someone you may not see for ages, but when you do see them, you just carry on talking with them as if you had never been away? You talk together, eat together, play together, worship together? Someone you can depend on; they will never let you down! It's what friends do! Someone who is always just "there"?

There's a word in the Christmas story that says something like that about Jesus. The word is "Immanuel". It comes from an old prophecy and it tells us something special about Jesus. It's not a name that He was called, but is a bit of a title that tells us something about Him. The prophecy tells us that *"the virgin will give birth to a child and they will call Him Immanuel – which means "God with us" (Matthew 1:23) "God with us!"*

That's something quite special. Nobody had ever seen God, but when Jesus came Immanuel says that this baby is God with us, God living in our world. That's hard to imagine, but if you want to know what God is like, then read about Jesus and the man He becomes. You'll see someone wise, who teaches people how to live good lives; you'll see someone kind and full of compassion, who cares for people in need, who are weak and struggling with life; you'll see someone who loves the world so much that He is willing to suffer and die for other people, for us. Jesus is God with us and shows us what God is like.

Jesus is God with us. Here are some things that we do because He is God with us:

God with us inspires us to love and trust God.

God with us inspires us to be kind people because that's what Jesus is like.

God with us gives us courage when life is hard because life was like that for Him.

God with us tells us that we are loved so much and so specially by Jesus.