

## ***“The Difference A Baby Makes – When His Name is Immanuel”***

*“The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son,  
and they will call Him Immanuel  
(which means ‘God with us’).”  
Matthew 1:18-25*

### ***A. What’s in a name?***

- 1. According to the Talmud, “The naming of a Jewish child is a most profound spiritual moment. The Sages say that naming a baby is a statement of character, specialness, and the path in life. For at the beginning of life we give a name, and at the end of life a ‘good name’ is all we take with us.”*
- 2. “Naming a Jewish baby is not only a statement of what we hope they will be, but also where they come from.” –Noam Elimelech-Bamidbar*
- 3. Sometimes the child was named after a relative to keep the name and memory alive based on the good qualities of the namesake.*
- 4. The meaning always had great significance of its essential characteristic. Ari – the lion is a symbol of a go-getter. Esther, a name from the word hidden. Although Esther was very beautiful, her hidden qualities were even more beautiful.*

### ***B. What’s in the Name that God chose...***

- 1. His name will bring hope!  
“And his name will be the hope of all the world.”  
Matthew 12:21*
- 2. His name will bring power!*

*“Let me clearly state to all of you and to all the people of Israel that he was healed by the powerful name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, the man you crucified by who God raised from the dead.” Acts 4:10*

*3. His name will bring salvation!  
“There is salvation in no one else! God has given no other name under heaven by which we must be saved.”  
Acts 4:12*

*4. His Name is above every name!  
“Therefore, God elevated him to the place of highest honor and gave him the name above all other names, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue declare that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” Philippians 2:9-11  
“This shows that the Son is far greater than the angels, just as the name God gave him is greater than their names.” Hebrews 1:4*

### ***C. His Name is Immanuel...***

*“The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call Him Immanuel (which means ‘God with us’).” Matthew 1:23*

- 1. God’s presence will be with you when you are afraid!  
“God is our refuge and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble.” Psalm 46:1  
“Don’t be afraid! I am the First and the Last.”  
Revelation 1:17*
- 2. God’s presence will be with you when you are alone.  
“I will never fail you. I will never abandon you.”  
Hebrews 13:5*
- 3. God’s presence will be with you when you are uncertain.*

*“I took my troubles to the Lord; I cried out to Him, and he answered my prayer.” Psalm 120:1*

*4. God’s presence will be with you when you are overwhelmed.*

*“Give all your worries and cares to God, for He cares about you.” 1 Peter 5:7*

*“Give your burdens to the Lord, and He will take care of you. He will not permit the godly to slip and fall.” Psalm 55:22*

*5. God’s presence will be with you when you are confused.*

*“Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek His will in all you do and He will show you which path to take.” Proverbs 3:5-6*

*6. God’s presence will be with you when you are threatened.*

*“The name of the Lord is a strong fortress; the godly run to Him and are safe.” Proverbs 18:10*

*7. God’s presence will be with you when your heart is broken.*

*“He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us.” 2 Corinthians 1:4*

### ***D. So, how will this Christmas be different because you know that God is with you?***

- 1. I will practice the presence of Jesus throughout my day!*
- 2. I will let the light of Jesus shine through my life throughout my day!*
- 3. I will find ways to extend that light to others throughout my day.*
- 4. At the end of my day... I will reflect on how I have let the presence of Jesus touch other lives!*