



## **SERMON BASED STUDY GUIDE**

Pastor Charlie Riley

### **COMING HOME FOR CHRISTMAS: WEEK 3**

#### **OPENING & PRAYER:**

Christmas declares Emmanuel—God with us. Not a ladder we climb or a path we invent, but the God who came close in Jesus. I asked a simple question: is God with you? Scripture answers: draw near to Him and He will draw near to you. When we move toward Him, we find He was never far. He's not just alongside; by His Spirit, He dwells within those who trust Christ. That's why the name matters: Emmanuel is not poetry; it's a promise embodied.

"Lord, As we take a deeper dive into the Christmas prophecies, we thank you for the Christmas season and everything it represents. We ask you to guide our study and speak to us through Your Word. In Jesus' name we pray, amen."

## SCRIPTURE:

And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us." **Matthew 1:21-23**

Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. **James 4:8**

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. **John 14:6**

He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. **1 John 5:12**

And this is eternal life, that they may know (Greek – Ginosko – Experiential Knowing) You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. **John 17:3**

that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. **Romans 10:9-10**

Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us is God, who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee. **2 Corinthians 1:22**

Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." So we may boldly say: "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?" **Hebrews 13:5-6**

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. **Romans 8:31-33**

Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? **Romans 8:34-35**

As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter." Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, **Romans 8:36-38**

nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Romans 8:39**

"Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. **Matthew 7:24-25**

"But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall." **Matthew 7:26-27**

This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. **Joshua 1:8**

For the Lord God is a sun and shield; The Lord bestows grace and favor and honor; No good thing will He withhold from those who walk uprightly. **Psalms 84:11 AMP**

Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.' **Isaiah 41:10**

I will both lie down in peace, and sleep; For You alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety. **Psalms 4:8**

Let your character [your moral essence, your inner nature] be free from the love of money [shun greed—be financially ethical], being content with what you have; for He has said, "I WILL NEVER [under any circumstances] DESERT YOU [nor give you up nor leave you without support, nor will I in any degree leave you helpless], **Hebrews 13:5-6 (AMP)**

NOR WILL I FORSAKE or LET YOU DOWN or RELAX MY HOLD ON YOU [assuredly not]!" So we take comfort and are encouraged and confidently say, "THE LORD IS MY HELPER [in time of need], I WILL NOT BE AFRAID. WHAT WILL MAN DO TO ME?" **Hebrews 13:5-6 (AMP)**

## GO DEEPER:

Jesus is the only way to the Father. That isn't narrow; it's merciful clarity. He is the way, the truth, and the life. To have the Son is to have life—real life, not just breath in our lungs but the life of God in our souls. Jesus didn't come to make us religious; He came to make us righteous and alive. Salvation isn't mystery math; it's confession with the mouth and faith in the risen Christ. When we believe, the Holy Spirit seals us—God's own guarantee—so we walk through life as people kept, not guessing.

If He is with us, then He is for us. Those two can't be separated. He's not for sin or bondage; He's for your freedom, your healing, your flourishing in His ways. And because He is for us, nothing can separate us from His love—no pressure, no power, no season. That confidence then forms our inner world. In a culture busy pushing God to the margins and surprised by the darkness that rushes in, Emmanuel brings the stability our souls crave.

What does His nearness produce? Security: under His wings, we find refuge and strength. Stability: when storms hit, houses built on the Rock stand. Success: keeping His word at the center leads to good success—not mere achievement, but fruit that lasts. Strength: "I will help you," He says, and He does. Peace: the kind that lets you lay down and sleep because He watches over you. So I invited everyone who hasn't yet to call on Jesus. Because life truly begins when Emmanuel moves from a Christmas word to a present reality in your heart.

## KEY TAKEAWAYS:

**1. Draw near; God draws nearer.** Closeness to God isn't random; it's responsive. When we take even small steps toward Him, He meets us with Himself. Spiritual drift is often solved not by striving, but by turning and moving His direction—He's never been far. Proximity is a promise for seekers. **[04:25]**

**2. Jesus alone opens the way.** There aren't many planes heading to the same destination; there's one Way, and His name is Jesus. Exclusivity sounds harsh until you realize He is the One who came for us and made the way at His own expense. Trusting Him gives real access to the Father. **[07:23]**

**3. God with you means for you.** Some believe God is present but not pleased. Scripture ties His presence to His help: "The Lord is my helper." He is not endorsing sin; He is empowering freedom. His with-ness arrives as advocacy, not apathy. **[19:19]**

**4. Nothing can separate you now.** Union with Christ is sturdier than your best day and stronger than your worst one. Neither pressure, failure, nor unseen powers can pry you from His grip. The Son who died and rose now intercedes, making your security as steady as His throne. **[25:22]**

**5. His presence stabilizes and brings peace.** When God is your dwelling place, you gain a settled heart in an unsettled world. Security, stability, strength, and peace are not luxuries; they are the fruit of Emmanuel in daily life. Storms still come, but houses on the Rock hold. **[39:07]**

## LEARNING AND GROWING:

1. In Matthew 1:21–23, what mission is tied to the name “Jesus,” and what promise is tied to the name “Emmanuel”?
2. In Romans 8:31–39, what is Jesus doing right now for believers, and what list of pressures and powers are named as unable to separate us from His love?
3. The line “The Lord is my helper” sits beside “I will never leave you nor forsake you.” What does that teach about God’s posture—present and actively for His people, not passively nearby? “The Lord is my helper.” **[18:04]**
4. Name one area of life that feels shaky right now. What is one Rock-solid action you will take to rebuild there—hearing and doing Jesus’ words? **[34:55]**
5. What is one bedtime routine change you can make so you can “lie down in peace and sleep,” entrusting the night to God (phone off earlier, prayer of thanks, Psalm at bedside)? “I will both lie down in peace and sleep.” **[38:10]**

## CLOSING PRAYER:

“Father, thank you for the opportunities to grow in our faith. We thank you for fulfilling Your promises. Please continue to guide us as we navigate through the holiday season. In Jesus’ name we pray, amen.”