

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO **CHRISTMAS CAROLS**

O COME, O COME EMMANUEL

(Isaiah 59.1-20)

ANNOUNCEMENTS (5 minutes)

- Talk about upcoming Community Group plans.
- The **Christmas Store**, Saturday, 12/8 2-4:30pm. Visit The City for more information and to sign up to serve. <http://bit.ly/Sf83ml>
- **Christmas Party & Hymnsing** Sunday, December 16th, 6pm @ Redtree. Like caroling but inside a cozy coffee shop. Coffee & hot chocolate on the house. Family friendly. Great event to invite friends to.
- New City Kids Playdate Friday, 12/7 10am

ENGAGE (10 minutes)

Starter question: What is your favorite Christmas song & why?

REFLECTION & STUDY (30-35 minutes)

(1) Read the lyrics to O Come, O Come Emmanuel:

*O Come, O come Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee O Israel.*

*O come, O Key of David, come, and open wide our heav'nly home;
make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee O Israel.*

*O come, our Dayspring from on high, and cheer us by your drawing nigh,
disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee O Israel.*

*O come, Desire of Nations, bind in one the hearts of all mankind; O bid our sad divisions cease, and by yourself our King of Peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee O Israel.*

- (2) What stands out to you? Why do you suppose this song has been in circulation for 1,200 years? Why do you think it's sung at the beginning of advent?
- (3) vv.1-2 God seems far away to many in Israel. What does Isaiah say is NOT the problem? What IS the problem?
- (4) vv.3-8 How would you characterize the state of things? Do you think it's difficult for people in our day to believe the world needs saving? Why or why not?
- (5) vv. 9-15 The personal pronouns here shift to the 1st person. What significance is there in that change?

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(6) On Sunday Josh said that the rhythms of worship (including the confession of sin) ought to kill any smugness or feelings of superiority we may have. Do you think this is true? Why or why not?

(7) (v.15-20) What does God decide to do in response to brokenness and sin?

(8) How can you keep a good Advent this year?

PRAYER (15-20 minutes)

.Take some time and pray together. You might divide into men and women or pray in groups of 3-4 and pray for each other.