

## Week 9: God With Us

### Fellowship

- **Eat:** Ask someone else to bring the snacks and drinks to provide hospitality.
- **Check-Ins:** In a large group or small groups of 2-3 do an emotional check-in—What is something you have been learning lately? How have you seen it impact your life and others.

### Adoration

- **Prayer:** Take a risk and don't plan anything for prayer. Just open up the space and invite people to rest in God's presence then pray out as they feel the Spirit leading (this could be words, pictures, scriptures, adoration, intercession, etc)
- **Worship:** Ask someone to lead worship or use a speaker with your favorite music App.

### Learning

- **Use a Resource to set the Stage:**
  - Context: The OT timeline finishes with a remnant of Israel returning to Jerusalem to rebuild the city wall and temple. But there is no glorious fulfillment of what the prophets had spoken of for generations. Instead Israel settles into a place of expectancy awaiting their Messiah and in the meantime strict observance of the Law so that they do not end up in exile again!
  - How does Jesus fulfill the OT? Watch the [Bible Project Video on the Gospel of Matthew](#) (watch the beginning from 0:00 - 4:33) or just open it up for the group to pull out themes from their own prior engagement with the story of Jesus. Spend some time sitting in this question and reflecting on what you learned from the video.
- **Scripture**
  - **Matthew 5-7** Break up the group to each take a chapter. Then rather than trying to summarize this or read it for information, invite each group to read their chapter silently and prayerfully on their own. This is known as the practice of *Lectio Divina* or divine reading. The aim is to ask the Holy Spirit to highlight one part of the text, verse, or phrase. Read that part a few times over inviting the Lord to speak. Invite people to respond in prayer or by writing out what they sense the Lord is highlighting. After 5-10 minutes bring the group back together.
- **Dialogue Questions:**
  - Ask people what that style of reading was like for them? Easy? Hard? Natural? Unnatural?
  - What was the Lord highlighting to you from the Sermon on the Mount?
  - What are you learning about this New Covenant from the Sermon on the Mount?
  - What are you learning about the Kingdom of God? How is it similar or dissimilar from what we saw in the OT?
- **Implication Ideas:**
  - What is something in your life that might need realignment with the Kingdom Jesus introduces into the world?