

# LESSON 1: HE WAS BORN TO BE GOD WITH US

**Biblical Passages:** Isaiah 7:14–16; Matthew 1:21b-23

Parents, have you thought about all the roles you fill every day? Most adults carry multiple roles. Simultaneously, we can be a spouse, a parent, a grandparent, a friend, a boss, and a worker. Your children also carry a multitude of roles with lots of expectations on them. Simultaneously, they are children, grandchildren, siblings, students, friends, leaders, followers, athletes, musicians, artists . . . just to name a few. In time, all of those roles become a part of who we are and what we accomplish. Each role requires something different from us, and is a part of the totality of who we are.

Likewise, God sent His Son to us to fulfill multiple roles. The first of these is that God sent His Son Jesus to be with us. As a family read Isaiah 7:14-16. The king and the people of Judah, the Southern Kingdom, were being threatened by neighboring countries. The threat of destruction was so great that “the heart of Ahaz and the heart of his people shook as the trees of the forest shake before the wind” (v. 2). In the midst of these threats, God sent the prophet Isaiah to deliver a message of hope to them. God promised that He would one day send His Son—Immanuel—to them. Only God has the power to fulfill that promise—sending His Son to be with us. Immanuel . . . God with us.

Now, read Matthew 1:21b-23. Hundreds of years after God’s promise to the people of Judah, He sent an angel to tell Joseph that the time of waiting was over. Immanuel, “God with us,” would be born to Joseph’s own betrothed, Mary. The fulfillment of God’s promise had arrived.

## CONNECTION QUESTIONS

1. What roles does each family member have? How do these roles help determine the kind of person you are?
2. What are some things that you fear greatly? How does the assurance that God is with you help you face those fears?
3. Was Isaiah’s message to the people of Judah one of hope? Why?
4. How is Christmas a season of hope?