

PRAISE TO IMMANUEL

Time: 60 Minutes

God with us – *MATTHEW 1:2*

RESOURCES

- Table per 4-8 participants
- Butcher paper to cover tables
- Paper per participant
- Writing utensil per participant
- Recommended: *Immanuel, God with Us*; Robert Doares

BACKSTORY

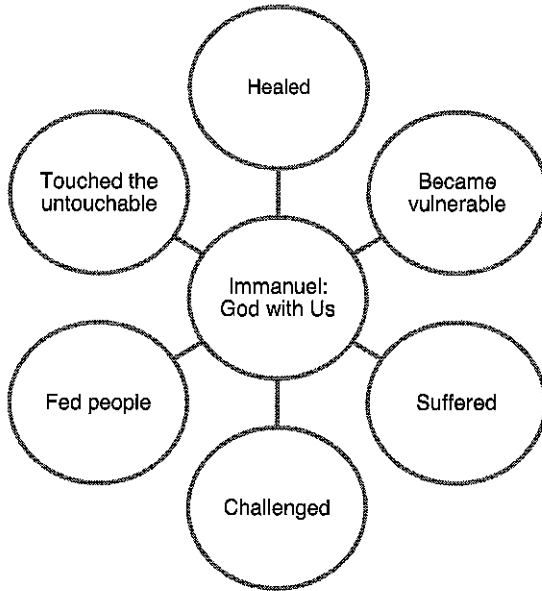
Robert Doares dedicated his book *Immanuel, God with Us* to “Our Lord Jesus Christ for all his love and tender mercies.” Inside the book you can find copies of the fifty-four drawings and paintings (48” by 15” in the originals) showing the life of Christ. These were created by Doares over a period of nearly thirty years. Doares, a commercial artist, began this series as an expression of personal devotion to Jesus Christ, never intending to share the pieces widely. The drawings averaged 400 hours each, but “Jesus Cleansing the Temple” took three months because of all the sheep. Doares’s attention to detail and historical accuracy helps to set Jesus into context on the earth. Doares pairs his visual message with favorite verses. “I’m more in awe of God every day,” Doares testifies. “Just realizing that the same miracle worker in the Bible is still at work in you and me keeps me going.”

PROCEDURES

1. Completely cover each table with butcher paper. In the center of each table, write the words *Immanuel: God with us*. Then draw a circle around the words. This is the beginning of a cluster of ideas showing what Jesus did when he was with people on earth.
2. Read the backstory.

3. Invite participants to table groups. Instruct them to make the next layer of the cluster by asking the question: *What types of things did Jesus do on earth?* (When half the groups have stalled, go to the next step.)

Cluster Sample: (many more second layer circles possible)



4. Invite participants to make the next layer of the cluster, by asking the question: *What are examples of Jesus doing these things?* (E.g. from the *suffered* circle, participants could add other circles, showing that Jesus suffered from having no place to lay his head, from rejection by the religious leaders, from betrayal by a disciple, on the cross.)
5. As each group finishes, invite them to pray together, using the cluster as a guide, thanking Jesus for what he did when he was with people on earth.
6. As each group prayer ends, give each participant a blank sheet of paper.
7. Instruct participants to construct their personal clusters by
 - Drawing a circle in the center of their papers and then writing in the circle: *Immanuel: God with Us*;
 - Copying the next layer of the group cluster onto their papers;
 - Finding a private place away from the group to construct their personal layers (e.g. specific ways in which God has healed them or fed them or touched them).
8. When the time is right, invite everyone back into the large group. Invite participants to lead in prayers of praise and thanksgiving to Jesus Christ, Immanuel.