



Sermon Discussion Guide

O Come O Come Emmanuel - Tim Knipp

December 3rd, 2023

Hook - Getting to know one another

- *How is everyone doing this week? Add other questions to get to know one another, especially ones related to the topic in the sermon.*
- Are there any particular Christmas Carols that have been important to your family growing up? To you today?
- Have you ever been amongst a group of Christmas Carolers? What was that like?
- If your small group has musical inclinations, this series is a great reason to sing together. Whether 'O Come O Come Emmanuel' or other carols, whether gathering around a piano, guitar, or speaker, consider singing together.
- 'O Come O Come Emmanuel' focuses on the hope found in looking back to Jesus' life and resurrection, and looking forward to his return. For more on this, consider watching one or both of these videos from the Bible Project together, on Hope and Joy:
 - <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/yakhal-hope/>
 - <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/chara-joy/>

Book - Scripture

- *Read the scripture passages and discuss to understand **what the text is saying**:*
- This week's scripture references are wide ranging! Consider reading through some or all of the lyrics of 'O Come O Come Emmanuel', and visiting the various scriptures references as well. As you do, consider the question
 - What is stated about God and Jesus in the song?
 - How is this matched through what is stated about God and Jesus in the scriptures?
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Hymn Verse	Scripture References
O come, thou Wisdom from on high, And order all things far and nigh; To us the path of knowledge show And cause us in its ways to go.	1 Corinthians 1:22-24 Proverbs 8: 32-36
O come, O come, thou Lord of Might Who to Thy tribes, on Sinai's height, In ancient times didst give the law, In cloud, and majesty, and awe.	Exodus 34:6
O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free Thine own from Satan's tyranny; From depths of hell Thy people save, And give them victory o'er the grave.	Isaiah 11 (verses 1-10, or consider verses 1-2, 10 for a shorter focus)
O come, Thou Key of David, come And open wide our heavenly home; Make safe the way that leads on high, And close the path to misery.	Isaiah 22:22
O come, Thou Day-Spring, come and cheer, Our Spirits by Thine Advent here; Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, And death's dark shadows put to flight.	Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7 Luke 1: 78-79
O come, Desire of nations, bind All peoples in one heart and mind; Bid envy, strife and quarrels cease; Fill the whole world with heaven's peace.	Haggai 2:7
O come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel, That mourns in lonely exile here, Until the Son of God appear.	Isaiah 7:14 Matthew 1: 18-23



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Look - Connections to our world today

- *This section focuses on implications about **what this text means** about what's wrong in the world, about trusting God, about who God is, etc.*
- In looking at these verses in the hymn, along with the scriptures, what is the view of Christmas that is expressed?
 - How does this differ from the way we sometimes think of Christmas in our culture?
- What encouraged you in digging into the hymn and scriptures?
 - Was there a particular description of/name for Jesus that you found especially encouraging? Why?
- Consider the refrain between verses in the hymn:
 - Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
 - Shall come to thee, O Israel.
- What is the call of response asked for here? (Could be helpful to consider in light of the Joy video from the Bible Project).
 - What does that look like in our world? In this season?

Took - Personal Application

- *This application focuses on **how God is calling us to respond**. This could be personally, as a family, small group, or church. It could be something to believe, to meditate on, to say or do this week.*
- What is your ache this advent? This week? Where do you long for Jesus to come?
 - How can we pray together in this?
- Of the 7 names for Jesus given through the verses of 'O Come O Come Emmanuel', which of those names speaks most to your ache in this season?



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- Consider revisiting this verse and these scriptures repeatedly through the week. Write the verses out, and post them somewhere to come to them daily. Let them lead you into prayer and meditation.
- Again, consider response in song here at the end of your time together.

Time of Prayer