Christmas at Hillsong Church



IMMANUEL God With Us

A Journey To Christmas: Family Moments

Family Moments

Family Moments will make the "Immanuel – God With Us" theme come alive for children and parents together – fun, meaningful, and easy to do at home during December.

What Are Family Moments?

Family Moments are short, simple, faith-filled times that families can share together each week during the Christmas season. They are designed to help everyone from the smallest child to the oldest grandparent, experience the heart of Christmas in a personal and practical way.

Each week, you'll gather around Scripture, a short memory verse, a simple activity, and a Christmas carol that connects to our Sunday message. These moments are meant to be light, joyful, and flexible. You can do them around the dinner table, before bed, or even while driving together. The goal isn't to be perfect – it's to pause, connect, and make space for Jesus in the middle of everyday life.

Why Should We Do It?

Because, Immanuel – God with us, is not just a truth to believe; it's a story to live. Christmas is the perfect time to remind our children (and ourselves) that God's presence is real and close. When we slow down together as a family to read, sing, play, and pray, we create opportunities for faith to grow naturally, not just through lessons, but through moments.

These Family Moments give you a simple way to:

- Connect to the week's message
- **Involve** your children in a hands-on, meaningful activity
- **Include** a short memory verse to hide in your hearts
- Engage with a Christmas Carol that celebrates the story of Jesus
- Encourage your family to talk, pray, and reflect together

So whether your home is calm or chaotic, whether you're doing this with little ones, teens, or visiting relatives, take a few minutes each week to gather together and remember:

God was with us in the beginning.

God is with us today.

God will be with us always.

This is what Christmas is all about.

This is Immanuel - God with us.

What are we going to do?

These short weekly moments are designed for families to do together, around the dinner table, on a Saturday morning, or any great family time. They can stand alone or pair with each week's Connect Group study.

Week 1: God With Us in Promise

Memory Verse:

Isaiah 7:14 (NIV) says, "Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel."

Activity:

"Promise Chain"

Cut colourful paper into strips. As a family, write one promise of God on each strip (for example: God loves me, God forgives me, God is my helper). Loop and glue or tape each strip together to make a "Promise Chain." Hang it somewhere visible as a reminder that God always keeps His word.

Christmas Carol:

Noel - talk about what the words mean - waiting for Jesus, the promised Saviour.

Family Chat:

- Ask: What promises do we sometimes have to wait for?
- Share: How does it help to know that God always keeps His promises?

Prayer:

"God, thank You that You keep every promise You make. Help us to trust You, even when we're waiting. Amen."

Week 2: God With Us in Person

Memory Verse:

John 1:14 (NIV) says, "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth."

Activity:

"God With Us Manger Scene"

Use whatever you have at home – toys, paper cutouts, or even kitchen items – to build your own small "manger scene." Let each person choose a character or object to add (Mary, Joseph, animals, a star). Talk about what it means that

Jesus came to be with us.

Christmas Carol:

Born Is The King by Hillsong Kids – sing together and talk about how Jesus came humbly as a baby.

Family Chat:

- Ask: Why do you think Jesus wanted to come as a baby instead of a king?
- Share: What does it mean to you that Jesus knows what it's like to be human?

Prayer:

"Jesus, thank You that You came close. Thank You for showing us who God is and how much He loves us. Amen."

Week 3: God With Us in Presence

Memory Verse:

Matthew 28:20 (NIV) says, "And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Activity:

"God With Me Scavenger Hunt"

Hide small objects (a cross, heart, candle, or anything symbolic) around the house or garden. Each time a child finds one, pause and say together: 'God is with me everywhere.' Afterward, share moments this week when you felt God was near.

Christmas Carol:

<u>Silent Night By Hillsong Worship</u> – dim the lights, light a candle, and sing together quietly, feeling God's peace fill the room.

Family Chat:

- Ask: When do you feel closest to God?
- Share: How can we remember that God is with us, even on ordinary days?

Prayer:

"Holy Spirit, thank You that You are always with us, at home, at school, when we play, and when we rest. Help us to remember You in everything we do. Amen."

Week 4: God With Us in Power

Memory Verse:

Acts 1:8 (NIV) says, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses... to the ends of the earth."

Activity:

"Shine the Light"

Give each person a flashlight, glow stick, or candle (battery candles are great for kids). Turn off the lights and let everyone shine their light together. Talk about how God's power helps us shine His love to others. Then ask: "Who can we share God's love with this week?"

Christmas Carol:

<u>Star Of The Morning by Hillsong Kids</u> - dance, clap, or play along with instruments. Celebrate sharing the good news that Jesus is alive!

Family Chat:

- Ask: How can we show God's love and power to others this Christmas?
- Share: Who might need encouragement or kindness this week?

Prayer:

"Lord, thank You that You fill us with Your power and love. Help us to shine brightly and show others that You are with us. Amen."