

**Read: John 1:1-14**

## Rejoice in the Word Made Flesh

### **John 1:14**

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.

*In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

Superheroes need super cool transportation. King T'Challa's Talon Fighter in the Black Panther is pretty sweet. Wonder Woman has an invisible jet. To be fair, Superman doesn't have a flying machine, but that's because he can fly by himself—and he has a cape.

When we hear at Christmas that the time was right for God to rescue his people, you might have expected the Savior to arrive in an awesome Jesus-worthy spaceship wearing some super cool outfit. Instead he came as a human, wrapped in strips of cloth, and landed inside a feeding trough in a barn. A place full of smelly animals isn't really a place for a super Savior.

Yet that's exactly what God chose. You see, the one true God loved you so much that he was willing to give up the glory of heaven to take on flesh and live in our dirty, smelly world. He was willing to be connected to humans by being born of a human mom. He lived his whole life knowing that his life would end on a cross, suffering the punishment we deserved. He rose from the dead so that we could live forever too. He was born in a barn, so he could prepare a mansion for us in heaven.

Even his name, Immanuel, tells us that the Word became flesh. That's because Immanuel means *God with us*—not God above us, not God only watching us, not God vaguely aware of us. *God with us* means that God is with you. God is with me. God chose to leave heaven and become one of us. All to save us.

Merry Christmas!

*The questions below are to help families discuss this devotion. The questions are divided by age group as suggestions, but anyone could reflect on any of the questions as they desire.*

### **Questions for the Whole Family**

- Look around the home. What do you see that reminds you God is with us? (*Hint: Christmas decorations...*)
- Where else can you go to be reminded that God is with us? (*Some ideas: go to church, go to God's Word... like this devotion*)

### **Closing Prayer:**

Dear Jesus, thank you for being with us, for taking on human flesh so that you could save us from our sins. You are the God of all creation and yet you chose to be born in a room full of animals. When we forget how much you love us, help us look at your manger to remember just how good you are to us. When we feel like we are alone, remind us that you are with us.

### **Hymn: CW 56:1,3 – Gentle Mary Laid Her Child**

Gentle Mary laid her child Lowly in a manger;  
There he lay, the undefiled, To the world a stranger.  
Such a babe in such a place—Can he be the Savior?  
Ask the saved of all the race Who have found his favor.

Gentle Mary laid her child Lowly in a manger;  
He is still the undefiled, But no more a stranger.  
Son of God, of humble birth, Beautiful the story;  
Praise his name in all the earth, Hail the King of glory!