



Introduction - The Gift of Peace (Immanuel)

We live in an age of peak security. We spend billions on smart locks, cameras, and alarms, yet anxiety remains at an all-time high. We chase "security," but what we actually need is **peace**. This week, we wrap up our series by looking at the rarest and most valuable name in scripture: *Immanuel*. It's the gift we didn't know we needed—the peace that comes from God's presence, not our protection.

Discussion Questions

- 1. The Security Illusion:** We talked about how the home security market is booming (up to \$75 billion!). Why do you think our "peace of mind" doesn't seem to increase as our "security technology" does?
- 2. The Context of Crisis:** Read **Isaiah 7:1-4, 14**. King Ahaz was facing a literal invasion; he was "shaken like trees in the wind." When you feel that kind of internal "shaking," is your first instinct to trust God or to "build a bigger wall" (like Ahaz did)?
- 3. The Remnant Hope:** Isaiah's son was named *Shear-Jashub* ("a remnant will return"). How does it encourage you to know that God's plan doesn't depend on everyone following Him, but on His faithfulness to the "remnant" who do?
- 4. Waiting vs. Controlling:** Ahaz tried to take control by bribing the King of Assyria rather than waiting on God. What is the danger of "fixing" our problems using our own strength instead of waiting for God's timing?
- 5. The Person of Immanuel:** Read **Matthew 1:21-23** and **Romans 8:38-39**. How does the shift from a *promise* (in Isaiah) to a *person* (in Jesus) change the way you face your current "darkest hour"?
- 6. Carried by the King:** Discuss the "Footprints in the Sand" illustration. Can you look back at a "low period" in your life and see, in hindsight, where God was actually carrying you?