

This midweek study will explore the topic of God's immanence—the biblical truth that God is personable and relatable to those made in His image. Use the following main points, Scriptures, teaching/discussion ideas, and questions to help students gain a better understanding of the essential doctrine for this session.

Essential Doctrine: God Is Immanent

When we say that God is immanent, we mean that God is personable and relatable to those made in His image, while remaining completely distinct and unique from all of His creation. It means that God is not a distant deity (as imagined by the deist) who only sits on His heavenly throne with no interaction, but instead is a personal God who created people in His image to be in personal relationship with Him.

1 God is distinct from His creation. (Isa. 55:9)

- ▶ *What makes God different from the world He created?*
- ▶ *What are some ways God is distinct from us?*

Read Isaiah 55:9.

- ▶ *Why is it important to remember God's ways and thoughts are higher than our own?*
- ▶ *How can knowing His ways and thoughts are higher than our own encourage us during difficult times?*

2 God draws near to His creation. (Ex. 40:34-38)

Instruct students to turn to the selected passages and summarize how God dwells among His people in these verses. A summary has been provided for you.

- Genesis 1–3. (Given the length of these chapters, you may just want to provide a summary for your students). God walked with Adam and Eve in the garden before their sin resulted in banishment from God's presence.
- Exodus 29:42-46. God gave Moses intricate details for the tabernacle and the ark of the covenant in order to establish His presence among Israel and meet with them regularly.
- Ezekiel 10:18. When Israel failed in their faithfulness to God's covenant, the most severe form of judgment from the Lord was removing Himself from the temple.
- Matthew 1:23. God's promise to revisit His people and establish them once again is fulfilled in Jesus, who was called "Immanuel, which is translated 'God is with us.'"
- Revelation 21:3. At the end of history, when all things are set right, we read this promise from Revelation: "God's dwelling is with humanity, and He will live with them. They will be His people, and God Himself will be with them and be their God."

- ▶ *What should be our response to the truth that God not only desires to draw near to us, but He has also taken great strides to make this happen?*

3 God has uniquely created humanity to be in relationship with Him. (Jer. 24:7; Isa. 43:7)

- ▶ *What is the purpose of life? Why do you think we were created?*

Read Isaiah 43:7.

- ▶ *According to these verses, why were we created?*
- ▶ *What are some ways we can glorify God?*
- ▶ *How can being in a loving relationship with Him make much of Him (i.e. glorify Him)?*

Read Jeremiah 24:7.

- ▶ *According to these verses, what is the main reason we don't glorify God the way we were created to?*
- ▶ *What has God done to correct this problem?*

WRAP IT UP

- ▶ *How have you responded to God's desire to draw near to you this week?*