

God with Us Brings Love

Day 9 LOVE AMONG US

**For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.
(Matthew 18:20)**

Have you ever been in love? The kind where you didn't want to do anything but just spend time with that special someone? Maybe it was back at the beginning of the relationship. When you were together, you could talk for hours – or just stare into each other's eyes; that was enough. When you weren't together, you were talking on the phone or texting. You got to know that person in detail: their favorite foods, what made them laugh, that look in their eye when their feelings got hurt. You savored their presence, and it's how you built that relationship.

Presence allows us to grow in our relationship with God, too. It's His love that compelled Jesus to take on human form - and all the pain and suffering that came with it. Yet it's the very loving nature of Emmanuel, God with Us, to make a way for us to know the Father intimately. His invitation and presence is constant and ongoing. And as we draw near to Him, He draws near to us (James 4:8). When we come to Him, He is there. When we gather with His followers, He is with us; His Spirit of love and community is there. The more time we spend with Him, the more we learn His likes and dislikes, His nature and personality. His love calls to us and draws us in. Love is the motivation of God with Us, and this is a God who loves you intensely and dearly.

How will you step into God's presence in this busy season? How or when do you most feel and receive God's love? How can you pass it on to others as well?