



# EQUIPPING STUDENTS IN TANZANIA TO SUCCEED

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**MATTHEW 1:18-25 | EMMANUEL, GOD WITH US**

ADVENT WEEK 4 | SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2022



## LEARN HOW YOUR LOVE IS EMPOWERING STUDENTS' SUCCESS IN TANZANIA

Lutheran World Relief has been working in Tanzania for more than six decades, focusing on agriculture, enhancing job opportunities for youth, and responding to hunger and malnutrition. LWR Kits are also a big component of the work happening in Tanzania, with simple interventions that have truly profound impacts. For students, a lack of school supplies can mean a missed chance at education, and for the many students who find themselves without the proper tools, a great rate of absenteeism keeps them from learning and future opportunities. But for those students with the right supplies, attendance is greater, engagement is higher and relationships with teachers are closer, leading to better learning and opportunity. It is a tangible act of kindness, produced by congregations around the US, that reminds our neighbors in Tanzania of God's ever-present grace and love.

## WATCH



[lwr.org/advent4](http://lwr.org/advent4)



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### DISCUSS

1. What captured your attention in the video?
2. What similarities did you notice between the classrooms in Tanzania and the classrooms in your community? Differences?
3. What are the ways that Maria described the school supplies bringing hope to her students and community?
4. One of the songs the parents sang in the classroom as their students received an LWR School Kit translates from Swahili to English as “let love persist.” How does your congregation’s love persist in reaching your nearby neighbors? How about your neighbors in far away places like Tanzania?



### BIBLE STUDY

This season of Advent concludes with the well-known story of the conversation between the angel and Joseph. It ends with the beautiful declaration by the angel to name the child Emmanuel, which means “God with us.”

Up until this point in history, God had been talked about, prayed to and worshipped, but not held or touched or sat with. In the birth of Jesus, God becomes tangible — flesh and blood, skin and bone, muscle and tissue. God, who was always thought to have been or experienced from a distance, or contained in a temple, becomes real in a way that no one thought possible before. God was now with God’s people and present in their lives. Jesus asks: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at?” Read together **Matthew 1:18-25**.

1. When you receive unexpected, and potentially bad or disheartening news, how do you react? How did Joseph react?
2. The angel told Joseph not to be afraid to take Mary as his wife. How does fear play into your actions?
3. Emmanuel means “God with us.” Thinking of Maria’s example, how can you be more present with people in your life? Give an example



*LWR School Kits deliver school supplies — and hope — to students in Tanzania and beyond.*



### PRAY

God of holy presence, thank you for the ways we experience you near us and with us. Help us to see how we can be instruments of your love. Turn us toward our neighbor so they may know you are near and with them through our actions. Amen.



### SHARE YOUR LOVE

During this Advent season, we not only wait to celebrate the birth of Christ coming into the world, but we look forward to the day when Christ will return, and all will be made right. When you help our neighbors, like Maria, through a partnership with Lutheran World Relief, you provide glimpses of the world that is yet to come. As we wait, you can participate in God’s promised future today by sharing your love with neighbors like Maria. Visit **[lwr.org/hope](https://lwr.org/hope)** to make your gift and be a light in the darkness for someone in need.



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