



Sermon Discussion Guide
December 21, 2025
Isaiah 7:10–14

1. Understanding Ponzi Schemes:

- What is a Ponzi scheme? What did Charles Ponzi do?
- How does the idea of a Ponzi scheme apply to our spiritual lives?

2. Immediate Relief vs. Long-term Trust:

- Can you think of situations where you have sought immediate relief or short-term solutions instead of trusting in God's long-term plan?
- Why are these short-term fixes tempting, and what do they ultimately lack?

3. The Story of Ahaz:

- Who was Ahaz, and what challenge was he facing?
- How did God offer to help Ahaz, and what was his response?

4. False Piety and Trust in God:

- What is false piety, and how did Ahaz demonstrate it?
- Have there been times when you've said the right things about faith but acted differently in your heart?

5. The Sign of Immanuel:

- What does the name "Immanuel" mean, and why is it significant?
- How does God's promise of Immanuel address the false securities we chase?

6. Application to Our Lives:

- How does knowing that Jesus is "God with us" change the way you handle fears and uncertainties?

Closing prayer:

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Take away the burden of our sins, and make us ready for the celebration of your birth, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.