

THE DENISON FORUM PODCAST TRANSCRIPT

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Why is Jesus called Immanuel?

Janet Denison discusses her new Advent devotional

NOTE: This transcript was AI-generated and has not been fully edited.

[00:00:00] **Dr. Mark Turman:**

You're listening to the Denison Forum Podcast. I'm Mark Turman, Executive Director of Denison Forum and host for today's conversation. Our goal at the Denison Forum is to encourage also educate as well as equip you, the followers of Christ, to be salt and light wherever God places you to use your level of influence, your opportunities of influence, to make a difference for the kingdom of God.

We want to help people move toward biblical flourishing, what Jesus said when he said that he was promising the abundant life, the life that I like to call the Christ life, which is joyful, supernatural, and available through a relationship of faith with Jesus as your Savior, your Lord, your leader, and your King.

Today on the Denison Forum Podcast, we're talking about Christmas and particularly the celebration leading up to Christmas called Advent, a season of anticipation where we look forward to the celebration of Jesus's birth, and in some ways also look to the next advent of Jesus when he comes as our reigning King.

We're going to talk today with Janet Denison, who is obviously married to Jim Denison, and Janet Denison has been writing and teaching Bible study for almost 40 years. She speaks with a voice that has experienced the truth of God's Word. She often says that the reason she gets out of bed each day is to help others understand and apply God's truth to their daily lives.

Teaching the Bible is her great privilege, as well as her great and her goal is to help people live a life that God can bless. Love that statement. Her ministry is called Foundations with Janet Denison. It exists to teach people about the transforming power of scripture through digital Bible study and is dedicated to helping people learn how to study the Bible and apply God's truth to their lives. It's also a ministry of Denison Ministries our larger umbrella.

For the last 20 years, Janet taught Bible study to over 400 women at Park Cities Baptist Church in Dallas. She continues to speak to local churches, as well as community events. Janet is a graduate of Houston Baptist University, where she met her husband, Jim. They've been married for 43 years. They now live in Tyler and have two sons and four grandchildren. Along with her numerous Bible studies, Janet is also the author of the books, A Great Calm, Content to be Good, Called to be Godly, Feliz Navidad and a collection of children's Christmas books, as well as several Advent books, including the one that we're going to visit with her today for 2023 called The Gift of Immanuel. We're glad to have her with us and we're glad to have you along for the ride.

Well, Miss Janet, welcome back to the Denison Forum Podcast.

[00:02:56] **Janet Denison:** Thank you. Glad to be here.

[00:02:58] **Dr. Mark Turman:** Well, we're going to talk about Christmas, which just seems to boggle my mind that we're talking about Christmas again. But in some ways there's no way that we could talk too much about Christmas. So, that's a good thing, but we're looking forward to this conversation and to talk about your most recent Advent book.

But before we get to that, I would suspect that there might be some in our audience that might not be as familiar with you as the rest of us are. So I was wondering if you would just kind of tell us the Janet Denison story briefly. How did you get where you are now?

[00:03:34] **Janet Denison:** Well, it's a story. I actually grew up in California and my dad was transferred during my first year of college and so I went ahead and moved with my family when they moved and I ended up being a student at Houston Baptist University having never been Baptist Anyway, through a long series of God events, I met a man named Jim Denison, who I fell in love with, and then before I knew it, this not Baptist person was now married to a Baptist preacher.

And I had a lot to learn and it's that journey that has really caused me to be who I am today. I knew what it was to not know enough of God for my life. And I... I had to work hard to accumulate the knowledge that I needed to be married to a Baptist preacher. And so much of my journey is just simply that God's word became my lifeline and it's now become my ministry.

[00:04:50] **Dr. Mark Turman:** So not only married to Jim for how many years?

[00:04:54] **Janet Denison:** Oh gosh, 43? June

[00:04:57] **Dr. Mark Turman:** and what I hear behind that is, is that there was no big plan to marry a preacher early

[00:05:03] **Janet Denison:** I had no plans to marry a preacher. I've often said the only performing talent I had was disco dancing. And that does not jive with the Baptist preacher very well.

[00:05:15] **Dr. Mark Turman:** Right. And also a mother and a grandmother tell us a little bit about the family.

[00:05:19] **Janet Denison:** I'm a mom, Jim and I have two sons who are wonderful and we adore them. We, they both married wonderful girls and I have four amazing grandchildren. So, I am abundantly blessed.

[00:05:35] **Dr. Mark Turman:** Awesome. And these days making your home in my hometown of East Texas. What's it been like the last few months to get resettled? What's the best thing about your new home place?

[00:05:46] **Janet Denison:** Last summer was maybe the most difficult summer of my entire life in selling homes and details and I have my mom that I take care of and so it was moving her as well. She was a lot of the reason we moved up our plans to come to Tyler by about five years. And, but it was a good move for her and she's happily settled in doing well where she is.

And we are loving the trees, the quieter pace. Miss the people. You can never move forward without leaving some behind, but, so I'll always miss what we've had to leave behind, but we are joyfully settled now in a quieter place that God just blessed us with our home here and with a schedule that could be quieter and more conducive to writing.

[00:06:48] **Dr. Mark Turman:** Fantastic. Well, that relates to your ministry. Part of what we'll get to today, but part of your story is that you've been teaching God's word in various contexts for almost 40 years. So tell us a little bit about that journey. How did you get started? And we have a sister brand that you do your work through called Foundations with Janet Denison that people can connect to Denison Ministries is not one brand or one ministry. It's actually four. And yours is one of those where Bible study resources can be found both for individual as well as group experiences with God's word. How did all of that come about? When did you start teaching God's word and it's almost kind of a required for the preacher's wife in some ways. But tell us a little bit about that ministry journey.

[00:07:35] **Janet Denison:** Well, it really goes back to what I mentioned earlier that I grew up going to church and I trusted in the Lord. I believed in Jesus as my savior, but I hadn't had a lot of in depth teaching. And one Sunday morning at our first church I remember Jim said he was preaching out of the book of Amos and told us to turn to Amos chapter one.

And I was dumbfounded because I knew Amos was in the Old Testament. I hadn't a clue where. And so I am sitting there with my brand new preacher's wife Bible that I had purchased and the pages were all sticking together. And I'm desperately trying to find the book of Amos and I'm realizing, okay, the preacher's wife is still flipping pages while everybody else is ready to go.

And so I instantly exchanged that Bible for one of those that had the tabs on the end. But I got an early lesson That there was a lot more I needed to know If I was going to be Jim's wife and serve the church well as a pastor's wife and that doesn't include all of the situations we found ourselves in that first church.

I knew I didn't know enough. I knew I wasn't equipped. And so I began a journey of trying to learn God's word so that I could know how to be who I needed to be. And I like to use the verse, taste and see that the Lord is good. I say taste and see that the Lord's word is good too. And I began with this hunger for the word of God that study.

And once I got into it, it was, I couldn't consume it enough. And I learned not just to read the Bible, which is what I had done before. I learned I needed to study it. And that led me to the rest of my life. I was a second grade school teacher. So teaching was kind of who I was. And then I just transferred it to teaching God's word.

[00:09:53] **Dr. Mark Turman:** Yeah. I think it's Rick Warren who says that the difference between reading and studying the Bible is having a pencil and some good questions. And just that who, what, when, where, and why kind of experience. Do you recall what your first teaching experience? Was it with children? Was it with adults? Where did you start in terms of the teaching part of it?

[00:10:13] **Janet Denison:** I began teaching children. That was what came naturally. And when we went to First Baptist Church in Midland, they asked me if I would lead a ladies class. And I told them that I needed to pray about it, which I always say as preacher's wife, For no way am I going to do that, but I don't want to say no right now.

And so then I decided, well, I better pray about it because I don't want to go into this new ministry having lied. And so I did pray about it and it was interesting over a period of a week. The more I prayed about it, the more I thought. Oh, my goodness, I'm supposed to do that. And so I went in to this small ladies class to teach Bible.

There were seven on the first Sunday and there were five on the next Sunday. It was rough. My hands were so sweaty. I could just turn the pages of the Bible with no effort at all. I was so nervous, but they were gracious, and they gave me a chance to find my footing, and I began to learn how to teach peers, and not children.

And that began a whole series of events in my life that led me to a place where I began to teach and speak to groups of women and things like that. And so it's just what God used to introduce me to my next calling. I

[00:11:43] **Dr. Mark Turman:** Yeah. Well, that's so great. And just being obedient to that, both to learning and into sharing is just such a great thing. And just wondering, this is the the question that as a pastor, I've always struggled with, which is, okay, what's your favorite part of the Bible? Do you have one?

[00:12:02] **Janet Denison:** love pretty much everything Paul writes. He will be one of the first people I seek out in heaven and I'll get in line and wait however long I have to, but I love his journey. It's similar to my own. I was never Against Christ, but I went to church for a lot of years never really knowing Jesus. And so I love his journey. I love his very real road to faith and moving from, I think I know, to actually knowing.

[00:12:40] **Dr. Mark Turman:** Well, I think that will be a long line and I know I'll be in it as well. Maybe they'll do a group course. Yeah.

[00:12:48] **Janet Denison:** That would be fun.

[00:12:50] **Dr. Mark Turman:** But well, we're going to talk a little bit about Christmas and about Advent. So you've written several Advent devotional books. But there may be some people I know there was, it was maybe 10, maybe more years before I got into ministry as a pastor before I even really ran into well, what is Advent? That was something that I remember vaguely from my childhood but had no real reference point to as a Baptist Christian and then even as a Baptist pastor and when I introduced it to this little church of 100 people that I was pastoring They were kind of like me. They were kind of familiar with the word and that it had something to do with Christmas, but they didn't really have a context in this little country church of a hundred people of what is Advent. Can you kind of give us some background about what this season is?

[00:13:44] **Janet Denison:** Well, there's a liturgical definition of Advent that is preparation and there are words and there are prayers and candles and all of those things. But the point of Advent was to prepare, to worship Jesus at Christmas time. So my Advent book doesn't follow the

traditional calendar. My Advent book is a series of devotions for each day in December until Christmas.

So my purpose in writing an Advent book was the same purpose as Advent is supposed to be, and that is to cause people to consider Christ and to make our days about Jesus during the Christmas season. Christmas is about Christ. And if we don't make it about Christ, if we don't make an effort to make it about Christ, it will become about so many other things instead.

[00:14:47] **Dr. Mark Turman:** Yeah, I was reading through an advanced copy of this devotional book. And I noticed, thought it was very insightful of you to talk about, you know, there's a difference for us as Christians from a holiday season and this being a holy day, Christmas being a holy day and a holy season.

And how we invite oftentimes, many of us do the more secular aspects of Christmas, whether it's lights or Christmas trees even Santa Claus, we usually bring some aspects of that into our experience of this holy season of Jesus's birth. But the world doesn't necessarily do that. And it's an opportunity as well as a responsibility for us to try to witness to that, to testify to that by all that we do and say, and all the ways that we celebrate.

And so I thought that was a really helpful insight. And I think maybe also good for people listening to us to understand that Advent is something that grew up in the years following the birth, the death, and the resurrection of Jesus. It's not commanded in the Bible that you observe this season in some particular way.

It's, but it's something that Christians have done for hundreds, if not thousands of years, this season of anticipation building up to Christmas. And that's what your work does focusing us on particular scriptures.

Every one of these 25 day devotional starts out with a verse that is targeted about the person of Jesus. But this book is called this year, The Gift of Immanuel, uh, take a moment, Janet, and explain to us that word, that name, that title. In the introduction of the book, you say this is kind of an umbrella term for Jesus. What do you mean by that? What is this word, Immanuel?

[00:16:37] **Janet Denison:** Well, Jim was preaching a sermon last December and I was sitting in church listening to it when he said something about Immanuel and my brain just took off. I don't even know the rest of his sermon because this book was formed out of something that he said. The name Immanuel is crucial. I want to read a verse and I'm going to have to look at it to read it correctly.

But the name Immanuel was found and used in the book of Isaiah to prophesy about Christmas. Isaiah wrote, Self will give you a sign. Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son and shall call his name Immanuel. Later couple chapters later in Isaiah nine, verse six, he said, for to, as a child is born to us, a son is given and the government shall be upon his shoulder and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

So I thought to myself, the Bible said his name shall be called Immanuel. Isaiah said his name shall be called Immanuel. And my question in my mind was, why did the angel tell Joseph to name his son Jesus? Jesus is the name Joshua, same name as Joshua, meaning the anointed one, one who saves.

And that led me to this whole idea, why is Immanuel the gift of Christmas? Immanuel is an awful lot like the name God gave himself when he was asked, What shall we call you? What is your name? And God responded saying, You can call me I Am. My name is I Am. The highest, holiest name in the Jewish culture was that name Yahweh.

Immanuel is very much the same. Pastors back in the day all had a Cruden's Concordance sitting somewhere in their studies. Cruden's Concordance lists 198 names or titles that were given to Jesus. He was called Prince of Peace, the Good Shepherd, the Light of the World. We can think of so many of those names ourselves.

But, Isaiah said his name, his character, who he is Immanuel. And that name means God with us. In many ways, the name Immanuel covers every other name that was given to Jesus. Every other title. The name Immanuel encompasses who Jesus was. He was God, is God, always will be God. He is also the I Am.

[00:19:59] **Dr. Mark Turman:** that's so good. So good to just to think through that insight and you know, I think about that from being with people in so many different contexts of situations whether it's praying over a meal or being in a hospital room when somebody is sick or even when they're dying.

Two two of the most frequent prayers I think I've heard people pray is lord help and then the second one is God be with us, god be with us. They just constantly, God be with us. And it really is connecting to this idea of Immanuel that, uh, all of these things that Jesus is, we may not know exactly which one we need at that moment.

We just know we need his presence. And that idea of Immanuel and that prayer of God be with us is kind of the living out the practical expression of that in so many ways. And like I said, this 25 day journey leading up to Christmas is such a great thing. So important. I want to just say a quick word of marketing to our friends that these devotionals that you've done for several years

and particularly this one coming up, they're very popular. Lots of people want them. We often sell out of them. They're available on our website, denisonforum.org. Just go to the store. But why Janet, do you think these kinds of devotionals leading us up to Christmas, why do you think they are so popular with people?

[00:21:27] **Janet Denison:** I think everybody, especially in our American culture, we're all aware that Christmas has become about so many other things. And one of the things I love to stress during the Christmas season is that God came to be with us. That's the gift of Immanuel. That's the gift of Christmas.

Then, God came to die for us. We can't celebrate Christmas unless we understand that Easter is a part of the same story. It's easy for Christians to understand why Easter. We needed a Savior. We needed Jesus sacrifice on the cross to save us from our sins. But sometimes people aren't as aware of why Christmas and Jesus chose the Christmas story for himself.

Jesus chose to be born in Bethlehem. Jesus chose to be born as an infant, to step out of heaven and become an infant because he needed to be born. He needed to experience every aspect of the human life and to live that human life without sin. He needed to come at Christmas as he did so that we would know he was the perfect lamb and he was able to be our final sacrifice.

I think the Christmas story shouts what we need to know about Easter. He chose Bethlehem, which is about six miles away from the Temple Mount. Bethlehem was known for being the home of David, where David was a shepherd. It had been a city of shepherds for its entire history because that was the place that people making their pilgrimage to Jerusalem knew they could go and purchase a lamb to take to the temple for their sacrifice.

The Christmas story shouts the purpose of Christ's birth in so many ways. And if we don't take time to pause, the Christmas story becomes a story instead of a message from the Lord that this is my child, get ready for him. This is the beginning of a story that ends truthfully with Pentecost when Immanuel came to be with us permanently and indwell those who believed with his spirit.

[00:24:20] **Dr. Mark Turman:** Yeah. So good. I love that idea that how it goes from story to message and a message that we need to hear and respond to, not just to know it, but to respond to it in an appropriate way. Tell us a little bit about , how did you assemble this? How did you go about putting these 25 days together?

[00:24:40] **Janet Denison:** I always pray over everything I write. I pray and say, Lord, get me out of the way and get my thoughts out of the way because I want to write his he inspired this book when I was sitting in that sermon, as I mentioned before. And I had that question, well,

why then didn't they name Jesus, Immanuel? In the beginning, and that prompted the journey, but the reason I write an Advent book frames everything and every day that I write.

I write these books to encourage Christians to make Christ front and center in their day, because there's never a season where the world is more open to our message about Jesus. And we need to be aware of that everywhere we go. Immanuel indwells the lives of every Christian. We pray for him to be with us.

He already is. We need to be with him and hopefully spending some time every morning will cause us to be with him. There's not a party we attend, not a store we enter. Not a moment of this season that we will not have an opportunity to share our faith if we are walking aware of those opportunities. And so my hope is that God will use the Advent book to just draw the Christians to live out loud a spirit.

Especially during the Christmas season. I also plant within every Advent devotional, I write the message of salvation. In case there's somebody that knows about Jesus, but has never really come to know him. And there is a difference in those two things. I always talk about that in my Advent devotionals, because a lot of people choose to give them as a gift especially at the beginning.

And amazingly, a lot of people want to read about Christmas and about Christ during the month of December. So it is also a tool for evangelism that Christians can use. I believe that's why God prompts me to write these. And that's what I pray about. What do we talk about today, Lord? What aspect of it? And I'll talk about all of the favorite things we know of the Christmas story.

But I'll tell them in the book, why do these matter? Why did the shepherds matter? Why did the angels appeared to shepherds first?

They were the least likely messengers of the gospel of the day. And yet that's exactly who the angels chose to give their message to. It's a fascinating story when you read it in the context of the why of Christmas.

And that's what this book is really about. I believe there will be something people learn by reading it, but mostly I believe that they will be prompted to share the Christ of Christmas with people who need it.

[00:28:00] **Dr. Mark Turman:** Yeah, such a good thing Yeah, such a great tool for not only drawing near to God personally drawing near to Christ, you know I heard it Talking about what you were saying a minute ago made me think of something that I read I don't know three or four

years ago during a doctoral program was reading one theologian who said You know, we may sometimes think that Easter is more important than Christmas or vice versa But he said, you know if you can believe in the christmas story if you can believe in God becoming one of us Then you can believe the rest of it with a little bit kind of relative ease.

[00:28:33] **Janet Denison:** That's right. It's not two different stories.

[00:28:36] **Dr. Mark Turman:** one story. And if you can kind of get your heart wrapped around this first amazing truth that God became one of us in order to save us, then the rest of it may come a little easier in some ways tell us tell our folks if they're not used to this may there may be some people possibly listening to us and I've never really had a devotional time what we sometimes refer to as a quiet time I kind of come to think in my own mind God never commanded that you get up and spend certain amount of minutes every day but we see that modeled by Jesus.

Mark 1 35 says that he went out early in the morning and was praying by himself. Others in the Bible had similar kinds of experiences, but talk to that person who is new to this and maybe they're saying, okay, this Christmas season, I want to do something that really focuses on the story and the message of what Christmas is all about.

I know it's supposed to be. A holy season more than a holiday season and somebody gave me this book or I heard about this podcast and I got this book. What, how would you encourage a person who's just really unfamiliar with sitting down with one of the devotional books, this one in particular, how would you encourage them to kind of set this up for success?

[00:29:54] **Janet Denison:** I would encourage them to taste and see that the Lord is good and that he speaks. And if they're not used to reading God's word in the morning, It's amazing how it changes the day. One of the jobs of the Holy Spirit in our life is to remind us of God's word. And I believe when you start the day with a message about God, a message from God, you can

then trust the Holy Spirit will bring it to your mind when you need to remember it. One of my favorite responses from the people who get this book is that I can't believe I read this morning and then you'll never believe what happened to me today. And I always think, Oh I can believe it. I really do pray over these entries. And I believe God honors that he knows what to say to who people who don't spend time with the Lord in the morning are probably going to wander through the day a little bit and miss some of what God wants to do in their life. We have all day, every day, and when we've sensitized our hearts and minds to God's voice, to hearing him speak from his word, from just realizing all that he wants to do during our day, when we're sensitive to that, we won't see the circumstances of our days in the same way.

There will be somebody at the grocery counter. That is struggling to decide which item to put back on the shelf because they don't have enough to cover. And you'll know that's god's prompting to say i've got that And i'll take care of it There are moments when we can acknowledge God at work and that he calls us to help calls us to serve, Always in his name not our own Always for his glory not our own but That's the purpose of the Christmas season.

People have short fuses and they rush through the season trying to accomplish everything the world has set it up to be. Joy is the goal of everyone at the Christmas season. It's joy that they want. But that joy is found in Christ. It's Jesus who said, I've come that they might have joy and have it abundantly.

We can't have the joy of Christmas unless we have Jesus, who is the joy of Christmas, every single day added to our lives. And that's why I believe in this book. We need what Jesus can give.

[00:32:50] **Dr. Mark Turman:** This book really helps people to do that. It's very accessible. That's one thing that you and Jim have in common is that your writings are very accessible to people. And this book might be called what I would sometimes refer to as a purse or a pocket book. It can go with you wherever you're going through the day and can also sit there by your coffee pot as a reminder.

And I was doing a little bit of work looking through some of the devotionals that you wrote. It just kind of set an expectation for people, Hey, about four or five minutes maybe a little longer for you to kind of ponder and think about what they read from you. And there's a prayer, always a brief prayer that you've included at the end.

So starts with a Bible verse has a, you know, three to four or five minute devotional to read, and then a prayer at the end. And like I said, taking a few minutes extra to kind of ponder that meditate on that. Is that kind of what you would mechanically hope that somebody would do at least?

[00:33:53] **Janet Denison:** Yes, that's exactly what it's for. And because we should spend as much time thinking about God's word as we do reading it. And we should not just don't hear my words, hear what God says to you through my words. And that's really my goal of the devotional, is not just to hear what I might be saying, but hear what God is saying to you through those words.

So I'm a big fan of listening for his voice. And anytime God's word is It's placed in front of a person it doesn't return void. God has something to say to that person through that message, through that word of Scripture. And I hope that's what people will do when they open the book.

They're not reading what I think. They're reading what God has put forth in his word for us to know his truth.

[00:34:57] **Dr. Mark Turman:** And I would have encouraged people to have a pen handy. They may want to jot down a thought or two, even inside the book. There's room inside the book to do that and to say, you know, God, this may be what specifically you're trying to say to me for this day out of this reflection, out of this reading.

Janet, if people experience this through the holiday season, it brings them closer to Christ and deeper into the meaning of Christmas, gives them opportunities to share, perhaps as you've talked about. But when they get to Christmas and they're like, okay, that's the 25th day. Now what where would they go?

You have some other resources. You have a resource that I want you to just talk about for a minute called Wisdom Matters that could be an ongoing tool, even past this Christmas season that people might use, to spend with God. Give us a little bit of an understanding of what Wisdom Matters is all about.

[00:35:51] **Janet Denison:** Wisdom Matters is my heart. Thank you for asking me about that. I took the better part of a year to think and pray over 365 devotionals. I noticed that one of the last things people did was check their electronics for messages their phones, their iPads, check for a message or a word or a schedule either way, it was one of the last things people put their hands on before going to sleep.

And I realized maybe we should do something so that the last thing a person does each day centers on God. I noticed that in Scripture, so much of the Moments when God spoke to a person was during the night in a dream. Joseph is a good example of that. And I thought to myself, do we ever give God a chance to speak to us before we go to sleep in case he needs to give us a word?

And so that prompted me to begin to write a devotional that comes out at night and it lands on the phone. I've been, as I said earlier, a preacher's wife for more than 40 years. And this app called Wisdom Matters is the closest thing to my heart and soul of anything I've ever written because I had to beg God for information.

I had to beg God for wisdom. I lived with the verse that says, if any of you lacks wisdom, ask and it will be given generously without finding fault. That's what James told us. I needed that comfort. I needed wisdom to do a job I didn't know how to do. I needed wisdom to become someone that I had never been before.

This world is flooded today with information. Young people go to their computers to find truth. To find their answers and all of us know that some of what we find on the internet is truth and some of what we find is not. I wanted something that would speak wisdom into their lives

They can accumulate information and knowledge. Wisdom is knowing what to do with what we know. And I have spent 40 years now asking God, what do I do with this that you've taught me from your word? I think the end result of wisdom is a greater trust in God as foundation, as the source of perfect truth, wisdom, Matters in a sea of information.

Wisdom is what matters and that's where the name comes from. It takes about three minutes each night if you listen to it, I recorded all of them so that people could just listen. If they wanted to each night and the notification comes to the phone, you tap on it and hit it and it goes. It is my joy to speak a word of wisdom to people at the end of their day so that they can ponder it as they go to sleep so that God can use it if he needs to during their dreams. That Wisdom Matters is my heart and it represents about 40 years of seeking God.

[00:39:48] **Dr. Mark Turman:** so how do people get wisdom matter such a beautiful thing and such a great resource such a great word like you said to not go to bed, you know, ending your day by listening to lots of hard stuff from the news or, you know, even what tomorrow's weather or your sports team might've done nothing wrong with some of those things, but such a better thing to go to bed with your last word being a word from God.

So, how do people get Wisdom Matters? Do they go to an email? What's the best way to get it or ways to get it?

[00:40:20] **Janet Denison:** Well, they can go to FoundationsWithJanetDenison.org and there will be a pop up or a place there to click on it. They can go to Apple, the Apple Store, the App Store, Google Play, and put in Bible Studies with Janet Denison and they'll get Wisdom Matters and It's a whole host of Bible studies that I've recorded to be used by people in their homes and groups.

And it's been kind of a fun adventure to see where these Bible studies go. But that's the brand, Bible Studies with Janet Denison. If they type that into their search on the app store, they'll come up with Wisdom Matters and all of those Bible studies too. But I had to move Wisdom Matters to the top of the list so it would be easy to find for people.

And then you just... Download it and ask for the notification and it'll arrive on your phone sometime around seven or eight at night.

[00:41:20] **Dr. Mark Turman:** Awesome. Awesome. Well, thank you for that. And thank you for this Advent devotional. It's called The Gift of Immanuel. You can get it at Foundations with Janet Denison. You can also get it at denisonforum.org. Just go to the store and you can order one or multiple copies as you said it. This is a great gift I've given other devotionals that Janet has done.

We've given those as gifts to neighbors and to family members. This one for 2023 is the Gift of Immanuel written by Janet Denison, a 25 day devotional leading up to Christmas, starting on December 1st. And so, you've got a few weeks to get your book in hand before the Christmas season comes right after Thanksgiving.

And Janet again, just thank you for the conversation today. Thank you for the work on this new devotional book. Thank you for wisdom matters and for all that you're allowing God to do through you. We're grateful.

[00:42:15] **Janet Denison:** Well, it's been my joy. I hope that the book will be a blessing to your Christmas season.

[00:42:22] **Dr. Mark Turman:** Well, I want to take a moment before we go to thank our audience for listening to us. And as we always say, If this has been helpful to you, please rate and review us on your podcast platform, share this conversation with others so that they can get to know Janet as well as the resources that she's making available.

And we're grateful for your participation with us today. God bless you. We'll see you next time on The Denison Forum Podcast.