



Sermon Discussion Guide

Incarnation - Tim Knipp

March 7, 2021

/Leader Preparation

1. Take some time to look over these questions ahead of time. Choose the ones that you want to make sure you cover with your group. We have highlighted what we think are **key questions by bolding them**.
2. Pray for your group and your time together as you prepare. This is so helpful!
3. When meeting online you as the leader will need to be more directive than in person. Don't be afraid to invite everyone to answer a question, invite them to share by name, and thank them when they finish. The online format requires a little more intentional orchestrating than an in-person group.
4. Try to start the gathering by getting everyone talking at least once to begin. The Hook section is great for this. When in doubt, have people share stories about their past. (How the week was, favorite memories about the topic for the day, etc). This is a great way to help your group continue to get to know one another.
5. Next, look at the Scripture and what it means. We believe Jesus is discipling people through this Word. Get people into the Scriptures and the Scriptures into people!
6. Finally, end with what God is saying to people and how God is inviting them to respond. These aren't just ideas to know but realities to live in!

Tip of the week

Question writers: if you would like to use this space to share a creative idea about an activity small groups could do together, or a way to make their conversation engaging, add it here. If you don't have one, feel free to delete this section.



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Hook - Getting to know one another

- How is everyone doing this week? This could also be an icebreaker question related to the topic for discussion.

- 1. Our faith has aspects of the spiritual realm (reading scripture, prayer, worship) and the physical realm (caring for others, work, etc.). Do you find yourself drawn towards one of these areas more than the other? Why do you think that is the case?

Book - Scripture

- Read the scripture, and discuss a few questions to understand **what the text is saying**.
 - **1 Timothy 3:16**
 - **Ephesians 1: 7-10**
 - **Collosians 1:15-20**

- 2. Read 1 Timothy 3:16. Paul states that “Great indeed...is the mystery of godliness”. How does the mystery of God being spirit and also human make you feel? Do you feel drawn in towards this mystery like Moses with the burning bush? Do you feel anxious or confused by this mystery?

- 3. Read Ephesians 1:7-10. Discuss among yourselves about how through the mystery of the incarnation of God through Jesus brings unity to all things.

- 4. Read Collosians 1:15-20. Paul describes Jesus as the “image of the invisible God”. Discuss the meaning of this paradox. What things about Jesus give us an image of God and who he is?



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Look - Connections to our world today

- This section focuses on implications about **what this text means** about what's wrong in the world, about trusting God, about who God is, etc.
5. The Bible teaches that there are aspects of God that are spiritual (invisible, omnipresent) and physical (the incarnation of Jesus). Why is holding this paradox together important for practicing Christian Faith? What are some consequences that you have observed of choosing one end of this paradox and ignoring the other side of the equation?
 6. Author of [Surprised by Paradox](#) Jen Pollock Michel states "the holiest people live the cruelest lives." What do you think she means by this? Discuss amongst yourselves of examples of people who embody this phrase.

Took - Personal Application

- This application focuses on **how God is calling us to respond**. This could be personally, as a family, small group, or church. It could be something to believe, to meditate on, to say or do this week.
7. Where do you need Jesus to be "The Great I and" in your life? What spiritual practices could help you to become more aware of God's presence in daily life?

Time of Prayer