

Life Group Study Guide

Doctrine

Foundations of Faith in the God of the Bible



Week Seven: Incarnation
JESUS: The God-Man

- The view we hold of Jesus Divinity and Humanity is incredibly important. The implications of our beliefs come from the beliefs themselves. Do you agree with this statement?
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J.I. PACKER STATED: *“TRINITY AND INCARNATION BELONG TOGETHER. THE DOCTRINE OF THE TRINITY DECLARES THAT THE MAN JESUS IS TRULY DIVINE. THAT OF THE INCARNATION DECLARES THAT THE DIVINE JESUS IS TRULY HUMAN”.*

- The bible is clear that Jesus is eternal God who has always existed from before the beginning of the world.

The bible is equally clear that Jesus did in fact become a human being.

“In the beginning (echoing Genesis. 1:1) was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made” (John 1:1-3)

“The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us” (John 1:14)

- This is know as the doctrine of the incarnation.

WHAT DOES THE INCARNATION REVEAL TO US ABOUT GOD?

- READ COLOSSIANS 1:15-20 & HEBREWS 1:3

Why are these verses so important? What do they reveal to us about the incarnation?

3 EXAMPLES OF HOW STUDYING JESUS REVEALS THE CHARACTER AND NATURE OF GOD.

1) **GOD IS MERCIFUL**

- By studying Jesus life we see that God is merciful. Read the following passages and discuss how we see God’s mercy reflected in Jesus.

John 8:1-11 : _____

Luke 19:1-10 _____

2) **GOD IS COMPASSIONATE**

- By studying the life of Jesus we see that God is compassionate. Read John 11:1-44 and the account of the death of Lazarus and discuss how Jesus’ dealings with Mary and Martha and his emotion reveal God’s compassion.

3) **GOD IS ALL POWERFUL**

- By studying the life of Jesus we see that God is powerful. Read the following verses and discuss how they reveal that God is powerful.

- LUKE 8:22-25: _____

- LUKE 17:11-19 _____

- MARK 5:38-42 _____

- MARK 5:1-20 _____

THE DOCTRINE OF THE INCARNATION IS OUR MISSIONAL MODEL

- Another reason the doctrine of the incarnation is so important is that it is our missional model. Read the quote from Michael Frost below and interact with it in your group. Do you agree with the quote? Why/Why Not?

MICHAEL FROST: *“For us the Incarnation is an absolutely fundamental doctrine, not just as an irreducible part of the Christian confession, but also as a theological prism through which we view our entire missional task in the world ... This “enfleshing” of God is so radical and total it is the bedrock upon which rests all subsequent acts of God in his world.”*

- GOD TOOK THE INITIATIVE WITH HUMAN BEINGS BY BEING A MISSIONARY OR SENDING GOD.

Read the following verses and discuss how they reveal the missionary heart of God?

John 3:16

Philippians 2:5-6

- GOD’S MODEL FOR THE CHURCH IS THAT WE WOULD BE A MISSIONARY PEOPLE AND BE SENT AND GO INTO ALL THE WORLD!

Read the following quote and interact with it in your group. Discuss it’s implications for the church today.

“As Jesus established His ministry on earth, He demonstrated and replicated the incarnational method of evangelism in the calling and ministry of His disciples. The disciples were not called to put down roots with Jesus and form an exclusive club that people could come to by invitation in order to receive the message of the Kingdom of God. In calling the disciples He continually reinforced and ‘kept the vision before them’ that following Him meant leaving the comfort of the familiar for the sake of the mission”.

- The incarnational nature of the calling of the disciples was not only reflected in Jesus’ teaching of the disciples, but also in the ‘high priestly’ prayer when he prayed that His father would not take them out of the world but that they would be protected from evil as they are sent into the world.

Read John 17:15-18 and discuss it’s implications for us as Christians living in Australia in 2011.
