

miracle in a MANGER

SERIES OVERVIEW

We are all very familiar with the standard Christmas stories: a young peasant girl, a baby in a manger, angels sweetly singing o'er the plains... These stories have become so familiar, in fact, that we often miss their staggering implications. The idea that the Son of God would come to us in such a humble manner should lead us to absolute reverence and awe. Which is why this Christmas season we will meditate together on the extremely humble origins of Jesus Christ and learn how the humility of our savior demonstrates the sheer depth of his love.

WEEK 1 - CHRIST IN A HUMAN BODY OVERVIEW

We too often take the incarnation for granted because of how familiar it is. In this message, however, we will explore the staggering implications of the eternal Word of God taking on flesh and walking among us as a fully human man. What does it tell us about the love of God that he would willingly enter his own creation as one of us?

So the Word became human and made his home among us.
John 1:14

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When you picture baby Jesus in a manger, do you think of it as a cliché or a miracle?
2. Read [John 1:1-5](#). Explain what John means by *the Word*. Does any part of this passage blow your mind? Why or why not?
3. "The Son of God became human so that we might become God," Athanasius of Alexandria (4th c. AD)
 - a. How could we "become God"?
 - b. Why do you think Christ became a human?
4. Read [John 1:12-14](#). What does it mean to be reborn? Why does Jesus want that for us?
5. Barry said, "You don't have to understand the incarnation. But this Christmas I want you to believe it." What is the difference between understanding the incarnation and believing it?
6. Answer the question from the overview above: What does it tell us about the love of God that he would willingly enter his own creation as one of us? (see also [Philippians 2:6-8](#))
7. Barry suggested a breath prayer that we can use to remember the truth of God's love: "In my _____, Christ is with me." What word would you put in the blank today?

RESOURCE

"*Delighting in the Trinity*" by Michael Reeves