

# **Small Group Discussion Guide**

## **Based on Ken's Sermon: "The Incarnation – April 27, 2025"**

### **Introduction (5-10 minutes)**

- Welcome everyone and open with prayer
- Begin by asking: What aspect of Jesus' birth story has been most meaningful to you personally? Why?
- Read together the section of the Apostles' Creed mentioned in the sermon: "We believe Jesus Christ, the Son of God, Our Lord, was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary."

### **Key Theme #1: The Historical Reality of Jesus (15 minutes)**

**Read Luke 1:26-38 and Matthew 1:18-25**

#### **Discussion Questions:**

1. Ken points out that the creed mentions both Mary and Pontius Pilate, placing Jesus firmly in history. Why is it significant that Christianity is rooted in actual historical events rather than myths or legends?
2. How does knowing Jesus was born at a specific time and place impact how we understand our faith?
3. In what ways does our culture try to treat Jesus as a concept or idea rather than a historical person? How can we respond to this?

### **Key Theme #2: The Virgin Birth as Essential Doctrine (15-20 minutes)**

**Read Isaiah 7:14 and Galatians 4:4-5**

#### **Discussion Questions:**

1. Ken states that "belief in the virgin birth is one of the great fault lines of the Christian faith." What did he mean by this statement?
2. Why is the virgin birth so central to Christian belief? What theological truths would be compromised if Jesus weren't born of a virgin?
3. How would you respectfully discuss the virgin birth with someone who finds it scientifically impossible to accept?
4. In what ways does Mary's response to Gabriel demonstrate faith? What can we learn from her example?

## **Key Theme #3: The Wonder of God Becoming Human (15-20 minutes)**

### **Read Philippians 2:5-11**

#### **Discussion Questions:**

1. The sermon contrasts the vastness of the universe with the humility of Christ in a manger. How does this perspective affect your view of God's love?
2. Ken says, "God became one with man so that we could become one with God." What does this mean for our daily lives as Christians?
3. Share a time when the reality of God taking on human flesh has given you comfort or hope in your own struggles.
4. How does understanding Jesus as both fully God and fully human help us in our relationship with Him?

### **Application (15 minutes)**

#### **Discussion Questions:**

1. Ken concludes by asking, "That's what He did for you. What will you not do for him?" How does contemplating the incarnation inspire your commitment to Christ?
2. How might our response to God's call echo Mary's words: "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word"?
3. In what specific ways can we live differently this week because we believe in the incarnation?

### **Conclusion (5-10 minutes)**

- Ask group members to share one insight or application from today's discussion
- Close with a time of prayer, thanking God for the miracle of the incarnation
- Consider taking communion together as a group if appropriate, reflecting on how the incarnation made Christ's sacrifice possible

### **Additional Resources for Further Study**

- The Gospel of Luke, chapters 1-2
- The Gospel of Matthew, chapters 1-2
- "Mere Christianity" by C.S. Lewis (particularly the sections on the incarnation)
- "The Jesus I Never Knew" by Philip Yancey

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*Note to group leaders: Be sensitive to those who may be new to the faith or still wrestling with some of these concepts. Create space for honest questions while gently guiding the discussion back to the central truths of Scripture. The goal is not just intellectual understanding but helping each person grasp the profound implications of God becoming human out of love for us.*