

Adult Small Group Discussion Guide 4-11-25

Based on Ken's sermon "Ancient Faith: The Incarnation, Part 2"

INTRODUCTION (10 minutes)

- Welcome everyone and open in prayer
- Ask: "What stood out to you most from Ken's sermon on the incarnation?"
- Read Philippians 2:5-11 together as the foundation for our discussion

UNDERSTANDING THE INCARNATION (15 minutes)

Discussion Questions:

1. In your own words, what does "incarnation" mean and why is it so central to Christian faith?
2. Ken emphasized that the incarnation was not just about Jesus' miraculous birth, but about God choosing to become human. How does this reshape your understanding of God's character?
3. What aspect of Jesus' incarnation (emptying himself, becoming a servant, humbling himself to death) challenges you the most?

LIVING INCARNATIONALLY (20 minutes)

Discussion Questions:

4. Ken stated: "We are commanded not only to believe in Jesus, we are commanded to live like Jesus." What's the difference between believing in the incarnation and living incarnationally?
5. The sermon contrasted worldly values with incarnational values:
 - Being yourself vs. emptying yourself
 - Looking out for yourself vs. looking out for others
 - Accumulating things vs. giving things away
 - Pursuing happiness/comfort vs. embracing sacrifice

Which of these contrasts resonates most with you right now? Why?

6. Ken drew a parallel between mothers' sacrificial love and Christ's incarnational example. Share about someone in your life who has modeled this kind of selfless love for you.

PERSONAL APPLICATION (25 minutes)

Discussion Questions:

7. What specific area of your life do you find it most difficult to "empty yourself" for the sake of others? What makes this challenging?
8. What might an "incarnational approach" look like in your:
 - Family relationships?
 - Workplace?
 - Neighborhood?
 - Church community?
9. Ken mentioned that God will reward those who live incarnationally. How does Mark 10:29-30 influence your willingness to sacrifice for others?

SMALL GROUP RESPONSE (15 minutes)

Discussion Questions:

10. How can our small group collectively practice more incarnational living in our community? What specific needs could we address by "emptying ourselves"?
11. What fears or hesitations do we have about fully embracing an incarnational lifestyle as a group?
12. What is one practical step we could take together in the next month to follow Jesus' example of humility and service?

CLOSING (5 minutes)

- Ask each person to share one specific way they plan to live more incarnationally this week
- Close in prayer, asking God for the strength to follow Christ's example of emptying ourselves for others

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

- John 1:14 - "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us."
- Matthew 20:25-28 - "Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant..."
- 1 John 2:6 - "Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did."
- 2 Corinthians 8:9 - "Though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor..."

FOR FURTHER REFLECTION

- Where in your daily routines could you create space to be more present and available to others?
- How might your priorities need to shift to better reflect Christ's incarnational model?
- What specific comfort or privilege might God be asking you to surrender for the sake of others?