

November 27th, 2016 Sermon Discussion Guide
Pastor Steve DeNeff
“Incarnate”

Gathering

“Lord, may this scripture guide our discussion as well as our lives. Give us eyes to see and embrace blessings from you, no matter the form. Give us the grace to embrace the mystery of the incarnation, we pray.”

Colossians 2:2-3

² *My goal is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, ³ in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.*

Prayer

For our brothers and sisters around the world who serve you even when their lives are at risk, give courage and strength. *Lord, hear our prayer.*

For our partner ministries in Marion, bring hope to the suffering, the displaced, the hopeless, and the broken. *Lord, hear our prayer.*

For those within College Wesleyan Church who need to remember the mystery of God made flesh. *Lord, hear our prayer.*

For the needs that we have shared together on a personal level,... *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Summary of the Sermon

- As a group, recall the key points of Pastor Steve’s sermon.
- How did God stir you during the service? How were you challenged or changed?

Scripture

Take the time to read aloud the scripture that was preached. Luke 1:26-35; 1 Timothy 3:16

²⁶ *In the sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷ to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. ²⁸ The angel went to her and said, “Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.”*

²⁹ *Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰ But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. ³¹ You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over Jacob’s descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.”*

³⁴ *“How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?”*

³⁵ *The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.*

¹⁶ *Beyond all question, the mystery from which true godliness springs is great:*

*He appeared in the flesh,
was vindicated by the Spirit,
was seen by angels,
was preached among the nations,
was believed on in the world,
was taken up in glory.*

Major Sermon Discussion Points

- Share some of your family's yearly traditions that you have use to help get you in the mood for Christmas.
- Share some of your family's yearly traditions that you have use to help focus on the meaning of Christmas.
- Pastor Steve shared 4 major points of reflection to engage the mystery of the incarnation. Talk about how each of these impacted how you think of the incarnation and the story of Christmas.
 - God became like us...so that we could become like Him.
 - God dwelled among us...and inside us.
 - God came to earth...and He's still here.
 - God reconciled the world through Christ...and he has given us this ministry of reconciliation.

Next Steps/Moving Forward

Individually make a commitment to your group to pursue one or more of the following activities this advent season. Then check in with each other each week about how you are encountering the mystery of Jesus and the incarnation.

- Creatively imagine the incarnation this month. Share with the group how you will creatively imagine.
- As a group or in your families, read the stories of Christmas again over the coming weeks with the questions discussed above in mind.
- If someone has the ability to lead, spend time each week in your group worshipping together in song this month.

Closing Prayer

Pray as you feel led as a group following your discussion or confess one of the following prayers individually or together:

*God of incarnation
you wonderfully created
and yet more wonderfully restored
the dignity of human nature;
grant that we may share the divine life
of the one who came to share our humanity,
Jesus Christ, our Savior
who is alive with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.*

Amen.