



Message Discussion Guide Week of December 18, 2022

Message: The Light Has Come (Light It Up series, week 3)

Key Scripture: [John 1:14-18](#)

Preacher: Pastor Jim Gascoine

Message Highlights:

- Today's scripture is an example of one that can be difficult; we know what the words mean, but ask "how does that work?"
- In [John 1:14](#) we are told that the Word became flesh and lived among us. We learn from elsewhere in [John chapter 1](#) that "Word" is a reference to Jesus. And the term "flesh" means, in general, human nature or being human. We also learn in John chapter 1 that Jesus, the Word, is equal to God, or Jesus is God.
- This is the Christian belief we call "Incarnation." Incarnation means that God became a human being just like us and lived among us, sharing our life.
- Paul's Letter to the [Philippians 2:6-8](#) reinforces this concept: Jesus was in very nature God but was made in human likeness.
- What does this mean? First, that Jesus can completely identify with us and with our lives, our hurts and brokenness, because Jesus, too, lived a human life, and either experienced or confronted all manner of human suffering, sin and brokenness. Jesus is truly human.
- Second, since Jesus is truly God, Jesus was able to win over that brokenness and sin, and thereby provides us with the means to win victory, too. [Hebrews 2:14-15, 17-18 and 4:14-15](#) remind us that Jesus shared our humanity, was fully human in every way, suffered and was tempted. But these verses also remind us that Jesus broke the power of sin and death, set us free from slavery to sin, can empathize with us, and although experienced temptation & trials, did not sin in any way.

- 1.) Begin by focusing on John 1:14: The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.”
 - A. How does [John 1:1](#) help us understand the term “Word?”
 - B. What startling claim is made about Jesus in John 1:1?

- 2.) [John chapter 1](#) records this witness about Jesus: Jesus is God, and even though God chose to become human and live with us. This idea is the Christian belief titled “Incarnation.”
 - a. Why is it so hard to understand Incarnation?
 - b. What about God becoming human is hardest for you to understand or accept?
 - c. How does Jesus = God make a difference for our lives?

- 3.) Paul’s Letter to the [Philippians 2:6-8](#) makes a similar point about Jesus. It says that Jesus is in very nature God; but was made in human likeness.
 - a. Christian belief says that Jesus is truly human and truly God. What is hardest for you in understanding or accepting this idea?
 - b. Philippians says that Jesus set aside his divinity, took the form of a servant, and was obedient right up to death on the Cross. What does this say about Jesus’ love for us?
 - c. Pastor Jim made the point that these ideas were being taught very early in Christian tradition, even by the original eyewitnesses. What does this suggest about the disciples understanding of Jesus’ person and mission?

- 4.) In addition to [John chapter 1](#) and [Philippians 2:6-8](#), read [Hebrews 2:14-15, 17-18 and 4:14-15](#).
 - a. Being truly human Jesus fully understands and identifies with our lives. What in your life are you glad that Jesus understands and empathizes with?
 - b. Being truly God Jesus was never defeated by any human brokenness or by the power of evil. What in your life do you need Jesus to help win victory over?

- 5.) What are some practical things that you can do in your life in response to this message?