



12-3-17 Sermon Discussion Guide

“The Christmas Presence”



Context

Advent is here! During this season of the church calendar, we remember Jesus' coming at Christmas and we await Jesus' second coming. This year, our Advent sermon series is called “The Christmas Presence.” Throughout these coming weeks, we'll discuss the importance of presence. In Jesus, God is fully present. Therefore, we follow Christ's example and seek to be present in the world around us. So in this season that is normally so busy, we pause to consider the importance of presence – God's and ours.

Checking In

Since the last time your group has met, how have each of you experienced God at work? What have you celebrated? What have you mourned?

Introduction

Consider a time when having the right person with you made all the difference. How did their presence give you encouragement?

Discussing the Text – John 1:1-14, Colossians 2:9

1. God is revealed to us by his written word, and also through Jesus, who John calls “the word” in the prologue to his book in the Bible. What do you think John is trying to say by calling Jesus “the word?”
2. According to this passage, if Jesus is the Word, what role did Jesus have in creating the world? Look at verse 3.
3. What does John say about Jesus and his relationship to God in these verses?
4. What do you think John means by saying that in Jesus is life, and this life is the light of all humanity?
5. How does verse 14 of John 1 describe Jesus? What do you think this means?
6. What does the “fullness of God” mean in Colossians 2:9?

So what?

1. Some people believe that Jesus was not involved in the creation of the world. Why would this be important to figure out?
2. If Jesus came into the world 2,000 years ago, is he still here now? How do you know?
3. How does Jesus' presence in the world make our lives better?
4. If Jesus reveals the fullness of God in bodily form, why do we need rest of the Bible?
5. If Jesus reveals the fullness of God in bodily form, are there parts of God we can't know about?

Prayer

Share something you are thankful for and/or something for which you need support. Have the group give thanks to God for his presence this week.