

### WARM-UP

- What do you love most about Christmas? Why?
- How would you describe to someone a person you admire or appreciate? What about this person stands out to you?
- What does peace look like for you? Why do you think that?

**WORD** <sup>11</sup>*For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.* <sup>12</sup>*And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.* <sup>13</sup>*And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,* <sup>14</sup>*“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”* **LUKE 2:11-14**

God promised His people that He would send a Savior-King who would restore justice and righteousness. God indeed fulfilled His promise, but He did it way beyond what people expected. He actually sent His Son, Jesus, to miraculously become man and dwell with humanity. Some may wonder why Jesus chose to become a man. He could have stayed divine and redeemed His people from the get-go. But God had greater plans. Today, let's look at why God chose to reveal Himself as a human and what this tells us about who He is.

## 1 | Jesus became human to reveal God's glory.

*"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"* **LUKE 2:14**

*And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.* **JOHN 1:14**

The Bible narrates different stories of God revealing His glory to people. Sometimes, He would reveal Himself through nature. Other times, He would send angels. But Jesus' birth is God's greatest revelation of His glory. Jesus is the radiance of God's glory. Because humanity is limited and fallen, it is impossible for us to fully grasp who God is. God the Son was incarnated as a man so that we may understand in human terms who God is. Since Jesus' words, actions, and behavior perfectly reflect the Father, those who were around Him on earth had a glimpse of what God the Father is like. This miracle continues for us even today. We can know the Father and His nature through the Son. What have you realized about God's glory in your walk with Jesus?

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## 2 | Jesus became human to show us God's favor.

*"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"* **LUKE 2:14**

*And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.* **JOHN 1:14**

Because of sin, there was a huge gap between man and God. It seemed as if we would fall short of God's standard and glory forever. But because God loves us, He sent His Son to become human so that we could have favor with Him. As a man, Jesus was able to sympathize with our weakness (Hebrews 4:15). He felt our pain and suffered just like us. Yet, He showed how gracious God is and came near even when we were sinners. He became our High Priest so that we may be forgiven of our sins and reconciled to a right relationship with God. This is all by grace, God's unmerited favor. We do not earn forgiveness but we freely receive it when we put our faith in Him. How has Jesus shown you His favor in your life?

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### 3 | Jesus became human to give us God's peace.

*"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"* **LUKE 2:14**

We often relate peace with tranquility and calmness. But the peace that God gives is much more than that. Jesus becoming human is God's way of bringing wholeness and well-being to humanity. In fact, *shalom*, the Hebrew word for peace, means wholeness. In Jesus, there is nothing missing or broken. His peace brings salvation and restoration. Not only is there peace within us, but we also have peace with God. Because of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross, we who trust in Him are forgiven of our sins, and He also works in us to restore what was broken by sin. We don't have to wait to get to heaven because even now, He is working in us to bring restoration. How have you experienced God's peace in your life?

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## APPLICATION

- Are there areas in your life in need of God's peace and favor? Do you want to trust in the perfect peace and forgiveness that only Jesus gives? Ask someone to pray with you in light of today's message.
- How does Jesus becoming man affect your view of your humanity? Do you believe that God can use you, despite your weaknesses, for His glory? In what ways is He calling you to do so?
- Jesus' humanity and deity made known to people who God is. In light of today's message, how may you make God known to the people around you?

## PRAYER

- Thank God for Jesus, our greatest miracle, so that we can experience His glory, favor, and peace. Thank Jesus for dwelling with us and restoring our relationship with Him.
- Pray that God would give you peace and wholeness in any area of your life that seems broken. Ask God to bring healing and restoration in your life and to those around you.
- Pray that this Christmas season God would enable you to boldly proclaim Him and make Him known to others. Pray that you would be a living testimony of Jesus' goodness and grace.



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