

TANGIBLE KINGDOM: WHAT IS INCARNATIONAL?

God loves us so much that He sent His Son, Jesus, to live incarnationally (in the flesh) among our ancestors. He came to teach and provide an example for us in how God desires we live with, and among each other. Incarnational means, "to take on flesh." If missional means "to go"; incarnational describes how we are to go; and what people see, as we go. It encompasses your motives, your heart, your posture and your tone. Incarnation is critical because, it will eventually determine whether or not people will want to know you or your God.

Opening Prayer: Read John 1:14

Scripture Reading:

- John 1:14
- 1 Thess. 2:8-9

Scripture Reading Discussion Questions

- What are some of your favorite stories of what Christ did to make God's kingdom tangible in our world?
- As you think about those stories, consider "how" did He do it?
- Jesus sets a high standard for us. It is intimidating, and yet challenging, for us to follow Christ in everything that we say and do...to proclaim the Gospel through our interactions with others as Christ's living disciples.
 - How do you feel about rising to Christ's level of discipleship?
 - How can we take His example seriously to help perfect what we say and do?
 - What are some ways we can move toward an intentional path of improving and building our faith and practice?

Application: What does this message mean to me? How do I grow in my response?

- What are some suggestions of how we might raise our steps, just slightly in how we walk, talk and do life with Christ as an example?

Closing Prayer: Adapted from the hymn "They will know we are Christians by our love"

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord, and we pray that all unity may one day be restored. Help us to be known as Christians by our love.

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