

Look at the **way** Christmas happened.

- He came completely free from the need from **human recognition** and **admiration**
- There is a tremendous **humility** about the first Christmas
- This humility shows God's **greatness** and **glory**
- The one who is great is the one who **serves** others

If we believe the incarnation it makes things fit into place:

A. It makes the **Bible** fit together.

It explains how the life of a **Jewish peasant** could so alter the history of the world.

B. It makes **human existence** fit together.

To believe in Christ means trusting

- **who** he is
- **what** he has done for us

We are called to live out the life that Jesus **modeled** for us.

Small Group Discussion Guide:

- 1) Why is it difficult for many today to believe that the miracles in the Bible really happened? Do you believe that God does miracles yet today? How would you define a miracle?
- 2) Pastor Dave states that the Incarnation is the greatest miracle ever. Do you agree or disagree? Why might it be considered the greatest?
- 3) Since Jesus is the only person who ever got to decide what kind of family to be born into, what does it say about him in choosing the family he did?
- 4) In what way was Mary's pregnancy both a wonder and anguish for Joseph and her?
- 5) What do you learn about God's character by the way he came into this world?

6) Discuss how our normal view of human greatness and God's view of human greatness differ?

7) How does believing in the Incarnation make the Bible fit together for us? How does it make human existence fit together?

8) Read Philippians 2:3-4. Discuss how the Christian life is to be lived out. What changes are led to make in your life to model Jesus' way of living?

Daily Reading Plan:

This Reading Plan is an aide to help focus on "The Life of Christ" message series. Each week's reading's are preparatory for the upcoming message.

Monday - Matthew 3; Isaiah 40:1-5

Tuesday - Luke 1:1-25; Mark 1:1-11

Wednesday - Luke 3

Thursday - John 3:22-36

Friday - Matthew 11:1-19; Luke 7:18-35

Weekend - Matthew 14:1-12; Mark 6:14-29



Redeeming Notes

Pastor Dave Glesne..... God Joins the Human Race - How?
September 18, 2005
Philippians 2:3-4

	1	2	3	4	5
Turning water into wine	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Raising Lazarus from the dead	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Stilling the water on Sea of Galilee	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Becoming a human being	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Ascension into heaven	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

Rate the above miracles according to degree of difficulty to believe for you with an X. One (1) being less difficult and five (5) being more difficult.

Review: 'Incarnation' means "**in flesh**"

The incarnation is the **Grand Miracle**

Other miracles are merely **changing normal causation**

The incarnation is **qualitatively** and **completely** different

The incarnation makes all the other miracles **child's play**

What actually happened on the first Christmas?

Jesus got to decide what kind of **family** he would be born into

- Mary was most likely no more than **15 or 16** years old
- Emperor Caesar Augustus ordered a **census**
- In going to Bethlehem, the prophecy in **Micah 5** was fulfilled
- The first to hear of his birth were the **shepherds**