



At Christmas, God did not simply think about or plan to restore all things, he did it. In expected and unexpected ways God shows us in the incarnation what love looks like in action; and that action shows us about how much our God loves us.

REFLECT (10 Minutes)

Was there anything new or interesting that grabbed you from the teaching Sunday?

This week Pastor Darren talked about how God is love and his love is manifested in action. At Christmas, he shows up with us in the person of Jesus. Think of a significant moment in the past when someone has been “with you”? What difference did it make in your life or in that situation?

DIG DEEPER (30 Minutes)

Read Luke 1:26-38 Reflect on the scripture by answering the following questions:

- 1) What do you think this scripture says implicitly about who God is?
- 2) What does this scripture say about who you are as a human being?
- 3) What do you think these verses might mean for your life?
- 4) What questions are you holding from this scripture?

Think about Jesus’ role as “Immanuel - God with us.” How has he been “with you” so far, either in your life or in the life of someone you know?

How do you tend to show love toward others in your life?

What do you think the difference is between treating someone as a project and treating them as a friend? In your experience how have these lines been blurred and what has that created?

Are there times when you have loved with your presence and sacrifice? What was the outcome of that posture?

RESPOND (5-10 Minutes)

Identify one place this Christmas you would like to give either time or money in order to express the Love of God in your life. If you are comfortable, share with the group.

Perhaps this Christmas as a group you could identify a way to serve the underprivileged in our city.

PRAY (10 Minutes)

Spend some time praying for one another that you each might know the love of God in new ways this Christmas and participate in this love.

LEADER NOTES

These questions are a guide; feel free to use/exclude ones as people may have already answered the question or talked about the theme OR if your group takes a long time to tackle one particular theme it's ok to skip over questions in the interest of time/focus.