

FBC Small-Group Materials

Week of December 11th, 2005

The King in a Manger?

"He lay in the manger and yet the world rested in his hands...Him who the Heavens couldn't huddle, the lap of a single woman could easily cuddle. She was toting about her hip Him Who carries her about the universe...How the high has come so low! How Divinity has crept into humanity!...He wishes to become one of our children in order to do something lovely for us; that's to say, make us all His children, the children of God." St. Augustine

For Small-Group Leaders

Dear Leaders,

Take a moment to read the above quote. The Christmas story is too good to be true. Some might say it's all quite unbelievable. Yet it is true and we must believe it. For without this hope we are left only to despair. Christ's coming changed our mourning into dancing. Let's decide to celebrate this Christmas. There's reason to hope. Reason to dance. Reason to rejoice. These Scrolls are designed to cause us to stop and wonder. Merry Christmas to you and your family.
Scott

Discussion Starters:

- Open by talking about paradoxes. Read this definition from Wikipedia.com. "A **paradox** is an apparently true statement or group of statements that seems to lead to a contradiction or to a situation that defies intuition." Like these:
 - "Man learns from history that man learns nothing from history."
 - "Moderation in all things. Including moderation."
- Perhaps the greatest paradox of all is the incarnation (Christ becoming flesh). Read the opening quote above by Augustine and discuss it as a group.

Discussion Questions:

1. Read Luke 2:1-7. Look at the parallel passage in Matthew 2:3-6. According to the prophets, what was the significance of Bethlehem?
2. How does Caesar's self aggrandizing census serve God's purposes? What does this tell us about who is truly in charge in the situation?
3. Read John 1:10-14. "The Word" in this passage refers to Christ as God, the second person of the Trinity, before the events of Luke 2. What do you think the phrase "The Word became flesh" in verse 14 means?
4. Why do think God "made his dwelling among us"? What hint does the second part of verse 14 give you?
5. As you look at Luke 2:1-7, why do you suppose the Savior and King of the world was born in an obscure village and laid in a manger?
6. What can we learn from the fact that God was born as a helpless infant in unpleasant accommodations, among the poor and placed in a feeding trough? What implications might this have on our call to be like Christ?

Living it This Week – The Extraordinary one entered time and space and in so doing became a part of ordinary life. As you face your ordinary week this week, be encouraged to know that God is in it with you. He cares about and wants to be a part of the ordinary things of your life. Spend some time as a group thanking and praising him for coming as a human being to rescue us and be a part of our seemingly ordinary lives.