

Sermon Guide

Advent 2023: Incarnation

As we enter the season of Advent we ask ourselves the question, why did God become human?

Alex proposed on Sunday that one of the reasons for the Incarnation was to teach us how to be human in this physical world. All the way back in Genesis 3 we see that humans have a problem with material. They desire to worship what they think it can offer them, outside of relationship with God. There was pride in Adam & Eve's hearts, and it was revealed through their interaction with the physical world. Now creation groans under the weight of our idolatry, because it was never meant to bear it.

The purpose of creation is to act as an access point to the love, purpose, and peace in God's heart. This is the example that Jesus set forth through His incarnation and the example that we want to follow!

Go Deeper.

Our desire is that every person would be empowered. We want people to not just hear a word on a Sunday but get activated in whatever the Holy Spirit is doing throughout the week. The guide is a tool for you to dive deeper into what God is doing in you and through you as an ambassador of the Kingdom.

You can work through these activations on your own or in a group setting. If you are doing them in a group, take turns leading, after each activation, take time to pray into whatever the Holy Spirit is speaking. It is also encouraged to have a journal and Bible with you.

For each activation focus will be key. We become like what we give our attention to, and one of the best ways to worship is to focus. Often we will ask that you close your eyes, if this helps you focus, then great, if it's something else that helps you focus, then do that.

Before each activation, take a moment to be still before the Lord. These are not exercises to rush through or items on a to-do list to check off. They are invitations to commune with God and to go deeper. Turn your attention toward Him and invite Him into this time.

Activation #1

In the teaching, Alex talked about how the physical world is the theater of God's heart. It is not material that is the problem, it's the fractured human heart that causes idolatry.

Ask God, what in my heart has caused me to seek satisfaction from the physical world, and not from my Creator?

Ask God how He wants to change your heart and use creation to access His love in this season.

Write down what you hear.

Activation #2

As followers of Jesus, we have the opportunity to partner with creation in bringing glory to God.

Ask the Holy Spirit, what does it look like for me to use creation as sacramental space?

Write down what you hear.

Ways to Pray

We believe that prayer changes things. This week, we invite you as the church to pray with us:

- That beauty would permeate our town, and as a result people would encounter God's goodness
- That we would see transformation in Newberg through heavenly excellence