

PRESENCE | John 8:58

God in the Flesh | 12.12.10

Understanding the divinity and humanity of Jesus are crucial to the Christmas Story. God used both extraordinary and ordinary means to send His son to earth, to take on flesh, to conquer sin, and rescue fallen humanity.

Growth Questions for 12/12 – 12/19

1. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's message did you find most helpful, eye-opening, troubling?
2. What was Jesus' claim in John 8:58? Look back at John 8:56-57. What did Jesus say about Abraham that confirmed His claim? In what sense is this statement true?
3. Why didn't Jesus say "before Abraham, I was"? What Old Testament event does Jesus' statement call to mind? (Hint: Exodus 3) Why is this significant?
4. What does Galatians 4:4 teach us concerning the nature of Jesus?
5. What are some of the most extraordinary things about Jesus' birth? What was ordinary about it? How do these observations give you hope?

Proclaim...Reach...Connect...Go

1. Why is Jesus' divinity/humanity so important for us? What kind of God would Jesus be if He were only God or only man? Discuss the implications, then rejoice that He is fully God and fully man.
2. In considering Jesus' divinity, what do we know about God from the other "I Am" statements in Scripture? Consider: John 6:35; 8:12; 8:24,28; 10:7,9; 10:1; 11:25; 14:6; 15:1,5; 18:5-6 How do these names portray Jesus as both God and man?
3. During this Christmas season, how can these truths help you as you share the message of Jesus' birth? How can you help others see the whole picture, from the manger, to the cross, to the resurrection?

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP EXPERIENCE – On Friday, December 24 at 6:30pm The Church at Martinsburg will be gathering at the Regal Cinemas to worship Jesus on the eve of his birth! Be a part and bring your friends, your family, and those far from God.

COMMUNITY GROUPS – *Community Groups* are groups of people who come together on a weekly basis to promote significant Christian relationships that are centered around the study of God's Word (Hebrews

10:24-25 and Romans 8:29). Groups begin on 1/16/11. Groups are available Sunday through Friday. **Sign up outside of the theater** – more information at www.martinsburgchurch.org.

...to proclaim the Gospel and reach those far from God.