

the CREED

Getting Started: The Warm Up (10 min.)

The Big Idea: This week we explore God's incarnation - the spiritual becoming flesh, Jesus. This providence of God bridges the gap between mankind and the One True God. The section of The Creed we'll be looking at addresses our human need and desire to have God come down to our level and be a part of our world. Considering that God left His comfort zone for us, we'll be encouraged to love and serve others in the same way.

Biblical Scriptures: John 1:1, 14; Philippians 2:6-8; Hebrews 4:15

The Warm-up:

1. Share a time when you had a celebrity sighting/interaction or an amazing "worlds collide" experience like the Marine One helicopter tour that Jodie's family was invited to.
2. God the Father can sometimes feel so far away. Describe what you think Heaven might be like. Compare/contrast that with how Heaven is portrayed in the media.

Resetting: Rethinking the Message (15 min.)

1. How do you remember the definition of INCARNATION?
2. What was the meaning/translation of WORD in the Bible?
3. Think about the God of the Universe as an embryo, an infant or a toddler. What kinds of vulnerabilities did He subject Himself to in the life and times of Jesus Christ.
4. As humans we use denial sometimes to make ourselves comfortable with something too difficult to believe or understand.
 - a) Why might we want to deny Jesus' divinity? Read Philippians 2:6-8.
 - b) Why might we want to deny Jesus' humanity? Read Hebrews 4:15

Dig-In: Beyond the Message (20 min.)

1. What thoughts come to mind when you think of the eternal Jesus at creation, calling into existence his beautiful world?
2. What do you think it was like for Jesus to leave heaven and become human? What qualities would it take to give that up?
3. What is the significance to our salvation that Jesus was fully human? That Jesus was without sin?

4. Is the concept of Jesus being fully human and fully God new to you? What new insight or faith building can come from embracing this truth?

Dig Deeper: How Do We Live It Out? (15 min.)

1. All that we heard on Sunday can be summed up in the phrase, LOVE CAME DOWN. Share how you have experienced that love.
2. How will you step out of your comfort zone—and let your world collide with others to serve and love on them?
 - a) **Look inward** - Assess your spiritual gifts (Knowing Your Design class)
 - b) **Look local** - Open your eyes to the everyday needs of those around you
 - c) **Look global** - Consider serving those in other countries (Feed One/Haiti)
 - d) **Look up** - Connect with God and acknowledge His desire to love you
3. From this section of the **NICENE CREED**, what line do you find most miraculous or unbelievable? Explain why.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
begotten from the Father before all ages,
God from God,
Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made;
of the same essence as the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven;
he became incarnate by the Holy Spirit
and the virgin Mary,
and was made human.

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