



**IMPACT COMMUNITIES**  
real life. real impact.

**Sequoia Impact Communities are a place to  
experience real life & real impact.**

To get plugged in email:

**impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org**

**The Mystery of the Manger  
#1 of 3— Dec. 10, 2017**

1) Take some time to discuss how your IC has been and will live out the Kingdom of Jesus together.

- In what ways have we been living like family recently? How will we live out our family identity in the coming week?

- How have we lived as servants to one another or to our world this past week? What needs or opportunities to serve is God asking us to lean into?

- How have we lived on mission where we live, work, play, or went this past week? Who do we know that needs to hear the good news of Jesus?

2) What did you find most significant about this message? How did it encourage you and challenge you?

3) What is the most challenging life issue you are currently facing? How do you feel about this situation?

4) Read Isaiah 40:12-14, 26-27. What do these passages tell us about the wisdom and power of God? How does this help you trust God in greater measure?

5) Read Isaiah 40:18-21. How is God different than the idols we make and serve?

6) Read Isaiah 40:25. What does “Holy” mean? Why is this significant?

7) Read Isaiah 40:9-11. Where have you experienced God as your shepherd? How does the Holy Spirit relate to this? See John 14:15-18, 25-26.

8) Read John 17:3 and Colossians 1:27. What do these Scriptures reveal to us? What implications does this have for you today and for your Impact Community as you seek to live as a Family of Servants on Mission?

9) Read Isaiah 40: 28-31. What are the benefits of trusting in God for our life and circumstances? How does this encourage you today?



**IMPACT COMMUNITIES**  
real life. real impact.

**Sequoia Impact Communities are a place to  
experience real life & real impact.**

To get plugged in email:

**impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org**

**The Mystery of the Manger  
#1 of 3— Dec. 10, 2017**

1) Take some time to discuss how your IC has been and will live out the Kingdom of Jesus together.

- In what ways have we been living like family recently? How will we live out our family identity in the coming week?

- How have we lived as servants to one another or to our world this past week? What needs or opportunities to serve is God asking us to lean into?

- How have we lived on mission where we live, work, play, or went this past week? Who do we know that needs to hear the good news of Jesus?

2) What did you find most significant about this message? How did it encourage you and challenge you?

3) What is the most challenging life issue you are currently facing? How do you feel about this situation?

4) Read Isaiah 40:12-14, 26-27. What do these passages tell us about the wisdom and power of God? How does this help you trust God in greater measure?

5) Read Isaiah 40:18-21. How is God different than the idols we make and serve?

6) Read Isaiah 40:25. What does “Holy” mean? Why is this significant?

7) Read Isaiah 40:9-11. Where have you experienced God as your shepherd? How does the Holy Spirit relate to this? See John 14:15-18, 25-26.

8) Read John 17:3 and Colossians 1:27. What do these Scriptures reveal to us? What implications does this have for you today and for your Impact Community as you seek to live as a Family of Servants on Mission?

9) Read Isaiah 40: 28-31. What are the benefits of trusting in God for our life and circumstances? How does this encourage you today?

## SEQUOIA NOTES

### Today's Sequoia @10:10 Message...

#### The Mystery of the Manger

With Ryan Dawson, Lead Pastor  
December 10, 2017



#### What is the most challenging life issue you are currently facing?

**Big Idea: Entrust your life and your circumstances to the Everlasting Creator.**

#### Who is the Everlasting Creator and why should we trust Him?

- **God is all-wise.**

Isaiah 40:12-14 (NLT) Who else has held the oceans in his hand?

Who has measured off the heavens with his fingers?

Who else knows the weight of the earth

or has weighed the mountains and hills on a scale?

<sup>13</sup> Who is able to advise the Spirit of the Lord?

Who knows enough to give him advice or teach him?

<sup>14</sup> Has the Lord ever needed anyone's advice?

Does he need instruction about what is good?

Did someone teach him what is right or show him the path of justice?

- **God is all-powerful.**

Isaiah 40:26-27 (NLT) Look up into the heavens. Who created all the

stars? He brings them out like an army, one after another,

calling each by its name.

Because of his great power and incomparable strength,

not a single one is missing.

<sup>27</sup> O Jacob, how can you say the Lord does not see your troubles?

O Israel, how can you say God ignores your rights?

- **God is alive and He speaks (Relational).**

Isaiah 40:18-21 (NLT) To whom can you compare God?

What image can you find to resemble him?

<sup>19</sup> Can he be compared to an idol formed in a mold,

overlaid with gold, and decorated with silver chains?

<sup>20</sup> Or if people are too poor for that, they might at least choose wood that won't decay and a skilled craftsman to carve an image that won't fall down! <sup>21</sup> Haven't you heard? Don't you understand?

Are you deaf to the words of God— the words he gave before the world began?

- **God is Holy.**

Isaiah 40:25 (NLT) "To whom will you compare me?

Who is my equal?" asks the Holy One.

- **God is a loving shepherd.** Isaiah 40:9-11

<sup>11</sup> He will feed his flock like a shepherd.

He will carry the lambs in his arms,  
holding them close to his heart.

He will gently lead the mother sheep with their young.

- **God came to earth as Jesus Christ.**

John 17:3 (NLT) And this is the way to have eternal life—to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, the one you sent to earth.

*"That ... is the unrecognized mystery of this world: Jesus Christ. That this Jesus of Nazareth, the carpenter, was himself the Lord of glory: that was the mystery of God. It was a mystery because God became poor, low, lowly, and weak out of love for humankind, because God became a human being like us, so that we would become [like him], and because he came to us so that we would come to him. God as the one who becomes low for our sakes, God in Jesus of Nazareth—that is the secret, hidden wisdom... that "no eye has seen nor ear heard nor the human heart conceived" (1 Cor. 2:9)... That is the depth of the Deity, whom we worship as mystery and comprehend as mystery."*

*Dietrich Bonhoeffer, God Is In the Manger*

Colossians 1:27

#### What happens when we place our trust in Jesus Christ?

Isaiah 40:28-31 Do you not know?

Have you not heard?

The Lord is the everlasting God,  
the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He will not grow tired or weary,  
and his understanding no one can fathom.

<sup>29</sup> He gives strength to the weary  
and increases the power of the weak.

<sup>30</sup> Even youths grow tired and weary,  
and young men stumble and fall;

<sup>31</sup> but those who hope in the Lord  
will renew their strength.

They will soar on wings like eagles;  
they will run and not grow weary,  
they will walk and not be faint.