



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 Message of the Manger
#3 of 3— Dec. 24, 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) When you think of Christmas and the Christmas season what is the thing that comes to mind first? What do you love about Christmas? What do you find hard?

4) Reflect on the quote from St. Augustine. How have you seen this in your own life?

5) Read Philippians 2:6-11. What strikes you most from this passage? What questions does it raise for you?

6) Read John 1:1-14. How does this passage build on what we see in Philippians? What implications does the incarnation (God becoming flesh) have for us in terms of our mission? Read v. 14 in The Message translation. Discuss how you are doing as an IC in living this out.

7) Read and reflect on Isaiah 53:4-6. How does this speak to the quote from St. Augustine? How does this reveal God's incredible love and grace for us.

8) Read Colossians 1:15-20. How does this passage highlight what we see in Philippians 2:6-11. What is different or significant in this passage? How do these truths draw your heart towards worshipping Christ?

9) Take time as an individual or as an Impact Community to worship God through prayer and song.



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SEQUOIA NOTES

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

The Message of the Manger

With Ryan Dawson, Lead Pastor
December 24, 2017
Merry Christmas!



- **“A remarkable gift can come in an unremarkable package.”**

Philippians 2:6-7

⁶ Though he [Jesus] was God,
he did not think of equality with God
as something to cling to.

⁷ Instead, he gave up his divine privileges;
he took the humble position of a slave
and was born as a human being.

Luke 1:30-33 “Don’t be afraid, Mary,” the angel told her, “for you have found favour with God! ³¹ You will conceive [from the Holy Spirit] and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³ And he will reign over Israel forever; his Kingdom will never end!”

Luke 2:4-7 [Joseph] traveled [to Bethlehem] from the village of Nazareth in Galilee. ⁵ He took with him Mary, to whom he was engaged, who was now expecting a child. ⁶ And while they were there, the time came for her baby to be born. ⁷ She gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him snugly in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no lodging available for them.

- **Jesus entered the world not to demand our allegiance but to display his affection.**

- **God became one of us so that we could become one with Him.**

St. Augustine: “You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in you.”

- **So the question is not WILL we love something as ultimate, but WHAT will we love as ultimate?**

Philippians 2:7-8

When he appeared in human form,
⁸ he humbled himself in obedience to God
and died a criminal's death on a cross.

- **The child in the manger became the King on the cross to free us from sin.**

Isaiah 53:4-6 ⁴ Yet it was our weaknesses he [Jesus] carried;
it was our sorrows that weighed him down.

And we thought his troubles were a punishment from God,
a punishment for his own sins!

⁵ But he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins.
He was beaten so we could be whole.

He was whipped so we could be healed.

⁶ All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God's paths to follow our own. Yet the Lord laid on him the sins of us all.

- **The One who went low is now made high.**

Philippians 2:9-11

⁹ Therefore, God elevated him to the place of highest honour
and gave him the name above all other names,

¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

¹¹ and every tongue declare that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Big Idea: Humbly worship the One who humbled himself to give you His love.

*The Translation of the Bible Scriptures used in today's 10:10 service
are from the New Living Translation(NLT).*