



IMPACT COMMUNITIES

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

To get plugged in email:

impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org

The Mess of the Manger #2 of 3 —Dec. 17, 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 and challenge you?

3) In the past, what have you tended to do at Christmas time with the “messiness” (i.e. brokenness, sin, pain, stress, etc) in your life?

4) Read Luke 2:1-7. Why did Jesus come to earth *when* he did, and in the *way* he did?

5) Read 1 John 4:7-10. Discuss the various ways these verses reveal the true nature of Christmas and the best ways to honour the birth of Christ at Christmas.

6) What areas of your life are “messy” right now that you need to invite Jesus into this Christmas?

7) Who is someone God might want you or your IC to come alongside and enter their mess this Christmas that they may experience the hope, joy, peace and love of Christ?



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SEQUOIA NOTES

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

The Mess of the Manger

With Aaron Richert
December 17, 2017



Luke 2:1-7 (NLT)

At that time the Roman emperor, Augustus, decreed that a census should be taken throughout the Roman Empire. ² (This was the first census taken when Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³ All returned to their own ancestral towns to register for this census. ⁴ And because Joseph was a descendant of King David, he had to go to Bethlehem in Judea, David's ancient home. He traveled there 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.

The first Christmas was an absolute mess.

- * An inconvenient time
- * An awkward situation
- * An unsanitary delivery room
- * A makeshift crib

Big Idea: Because of the manger, we can experience JOY in our MESS.

John 3:16-18a

"For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸ "There is no judgment against anyone who believes in him.

Romans 5:6

"When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners."

¹ John 4:7-10

⁷ Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God. ⁸ But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹ God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. ¹⁰ This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.

Responding to the Mess of the Manger:

- * Invite Jesus into your mess this Christmas.
- * Enter into someone else's mess this Christmas.

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