

RIVERS CROSSING COMMUNITY CHURCH

Community Group Discussion Guide
December 6, 2015



InstaChristmas – Week #1

INTRODUCTION:

1. As we get into our Christmas Series, Pastor Paul reminded us of what Pastor Jeff shared last week – our beliefs determine our actions. When you think about your Christmas traditions that you and your family have each year, how do they reflect your beliefs?

DIVE IN:

1. The big idea this week was that Jesus > Angels. Pastor Paul hit quite a few myths about angels that we hold that are not true. Talk through those with your group. Were any of them commonly held beliefs? Were there any other perspectives that your group had about angels that also don't reflect scripture?

Here were the common myths that Paul shared, once again:

- Angels in art look like angels in the bible.
 - Angels have halos.
 - Angels are to be worshipped.
 - Humans become angels after they die.
2. Check out Ezekiel 1 together as a group. It's a very different perspective on what angels look like than the characters we see in our common cultures. Read through this passage together as a group and then discuss it. Can you even begin to fathom what a being like this would look like? No wonder they regularly said "fear not!". Keep this beautiful and intense created being in mind as you go through the rest of the discussion. It's great perspective!
 3. The primary passage that Pastor Paul looked through was Hebrews 1-2. Take the time to read through the entirety of the two chapters together as a group and then answer the following questions.
 4. As Pastor Jeff said in his message, "the intensity of your beliefs drives the urgency of your behaviors." How have you seen this play out in your life in both positive and negative ways?
 5. How does your perspective of Angels change as you read through this passage? If you were to draw out a hierarchy of significance with God, Jesus, Angels, & Humans, what would that look like?
 6. Pastor Paul referred to the idea of syncretism – the blending of beliefs from multiple religions or perspectives to form your own personal views. It can be easy to pick and choose things we learn over time from culture, church experience, family traditions, etc... that are not biblically based.

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When it comes to angels, how have we developed a skewed perspective v.s. their actual character and role according to the bible?

7. Hopefully this week not only helped to set our perspective on angels straight according to scripture, it also helped remind us of the beauty of the being of Jesus. As you read through the Hebrews passage, specifically Hebrews 1:3-4, listed here:

“The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.” (Heb 1:3-4 NIV)

Have you ever thought of Jesus as the exact representation of the being of God before? How does that help you better understand God? God has used the very Christmas story, including the activity of the angels, to make his being and nature known in an intimate and personal way.

NOW WHAT:

1. What part of this week’s message has had the greatest impact on you? What truth(s) has God taught you through the message and our group discussion?
2. What do you need to do with that truth this week to become a fully engaged follower of Jesus?