



## LIFEgroup HOMEwork

Week of February 28, 2010

### **Why Jesus Came in the Flesh? – Luke 2:21-52**

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People are quick to see Jesus as a type of spiritual Superman. He has a human body and known by everyone as Clark Kent, mild mannered reporter. But under his suit is a shirt with the letter 'G' for God. Superman is the man of steel who could leap tall buildings in a single bound. He is from another planet and not really bound to the normal shortcoming of the rest of us earthlings. Superman is not fully human, but Jesus is!

Blaise Pascal said, "The Church has had as much difficulty in showing that Jesus Christ was man, against those who denied it, as in showing that he was God; and the probabilities were equally great."

J.E. Packer hits the issue on the head when he states, "The really staggering Christian claim is that Jesus of Nazareth was God made man... The more you think about it, the more staggering it gets. Nothing in fiction is so fantastic as this truth of the Incarnation."

#### **Sharing Question:**

What one supernatural power would you most like to possess?

## LIFEgroup homework

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### **Getting Started Question:**

From Sunday's sermon, what is one thing you gleaned from the priorities of Joseph and Mary?

### **Homework:**

**Jesus was 100% human.** Read the following verses and ponder what it would have been like to spend time walking this planet with Jesus.

**What did He look like?** Read Isaiah 53:2

No one knows for sure what Jesus looked like because there were no cameras at the time. In more than 50 mainstream movies, none used an ethnically Jewish actor. How would you describe Jesus' appearance as you imagine Him? Masculine or feminine? Long hair or short? Beard or clean shaven? Blue eyes or brown? Muscular or lean?

**Ecclesiastes 3:4** says that there is "a time to laugh." Do you imagine Jesus laughing and enjoying spending time with people? (Remember, Jesus was invited to a lot of parties by some marginal people for a reason... they enjoyed his company)

## LIFEgroup homework

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**Read Isaiah 53:3.** What do we know about Jesus' willingness to identify with our pain?

**Read Philippians 2:5-11.** This is called the 'U' movement in theology. Jesus started in Heaven, came down to earth and then returned to heaven in his exaltation... thus the 'U.'

Vs. 5 – What is the attitude or "mind" of Jesus that we need to have as He willingly came down to earth for us?

Vs. 6 – Jesus "...did not consider equality with God something to be grasped." What does that mean in your own words?

Vs. 7 – What did Jesus empty Himself "of" when He came to earth? (What did He give up without losing His attributes as God?)

Vs. 8 – Why did Jesus humble Himself to the point of death?

## LIFEgroup homework

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Jesus laid aside His independent use of His divine attributes, submitting Himself to His Heavenly Father's will.

Vs. 9-12 – How did God the Father respond to God the Son's willingness to be obedient unto death?

When we understand what Jesus did for us, our logical response is to bow in worship. Who will bow at the name of Jesus?

**Read Matthew 26:53.** How could Jesus have been rescued from the humiliation of the cross? Why didn't He do it?

Jesus is the King of kings and Lord of lords. He is the unique God-man to whom every knee will bow, willingly now or by force later. The wisest thing we can do is choose to bow to Him today!

Write a prayer; thank Jesus for humbling Himself and coming to this earth for you:

Memory Verse: **2 Corinthians 5:21 (NIV)** "God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God."



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