

Is Jesus Really God?

Worship Center: Alicia Bruxvoort // Chapel: Anna Beck

BIG IDEA

The incarnation wasn't just about a baby in a manger—it was about salvation.

KEY SCRIPTURES

Luke 19:1-10; 2 Corinthians 3:18; John 8:34-3; Luke 19:41-44; Luke 2:11; Revelation 3:20

1. When you think of Christmas, what images or feelings come to mind? How does the idea of Christmas as a rescue mission expand or confront your usual picture?
2. Christmas isn't just God stopping by; it's "God running in." When did you first become aware of God's pursuit of you? Where in your life do you sense Jesus running after you right now?
3. In the story of Zacchaeus in Luke 19:1-10 Jesus initiates everything in this story—He sees Zacchaeus, calls him by name, invites Himself in. Where in your own life have you experienced Jesus as the One who pursues you first?
4. Zacchaeus' curiosity positioned him to encounter Jesus. What about Jesus makes you curious? Consider the townspeople in the text. Instead of talking with Jesus they grumbled about him. How might curiosity have changed their story? What questions do you have for Jesus right now? How can those questions help you practice spiritual curiosity?
5. Jesus says He came "to seek and save the lost." Using the message's definition—lost = relationally separated from God—how does this reframe what it means to be "lost"? Where have you personally felt that separation?
6. Zacchaeus didn't just change his behavior; he received a new heart. What's the difference between trying to "behave better" and actually being transformed? Read Ezekiel 36:26. Where in your life do you see evidence of real heart change?
7. We often settle for Jesus as a moral example or inspirational teacher. In what areas of your life are you still relying on self-improvement, self-effort, or self-salvation instead of surrendering to Jesus as Rescuer?
8. Salvation is past, present, and future — "I was saved, I am being saved, I will be saved." What does "being saved" look like in your daily life right now? Where do you sense the Holy Spirit working to restore you?
9. "If Jesus came to liberate us, our lives should look different than the rest of the world." Read John 8:34-26. Is there an area of your life where you are living like a slave instead of a son? Where do you still need freedom in Christ?
10. Jesus joins Zacchaeus at the table, which is an image of belonging, community, trust, commitment. If Christmas is an invitation to God's table, who in your life right now needs to know there's a seat for them there? What's one way you can extend an invitation to the table this season?