



SIGNS OF LIFE

About the Series

In this brief eight week series, Pastor Bryan will explore different topics that display to us what life from God looks like. The good news is that although sin and death are all around us, God has not abandoned us nor this world to be conquered by them. In his great love, he has intervened and initiated a new work by establishing a better Kingdom. The true King has come and placed these signs of life for us to see! In the next eight weeks, we will study the following topics:

- 12/23 Incarnation** (God became one of us)
- 12/30 Transformation** (God changes us)
- 1/6 Community** (God welcomes us)
- 1/13 Worship** (God is enjoyed by us)
- 1/20 Love** (God loves through us)
- 1/27 Generosity** (God gives through us)
- 2/3 Reconciliation** (God makes peace through us)
- 2/10 Mission** (God reaches the lost through us)

This Week: Incarnation (God became one of us)

Most religions and philosophies begin with a teacher who gives advice, principles and/or rules and expects people to follow these guidelines. To the degree that one adheres they will be saved or reach enlightenment and have life. Christianity is unique in that it begins with a Savior who comes to deliver and give life. He teaches those who follow him, how they can live. In a world gripped by suffering and death, the expression “God with us” (Matt 1:23) is one of the greatest signs of life.

Read Matthew 1:18-23 (read aloud)

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. [19] And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. [20] But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to

take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. [21] She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” [22] All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: [23] “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel”, which means, “God with us”.

Application: Answer the below questions:

- How is Jesus revealed as God throughout the New Testament? (give scriptural examples)
- If Jesus was just a gifted teacher then a proper response would be to respect and admire him. Yet, because He is called, Emmanuel (God with us) what should be our proper response? (hint: read Matt. 2:10-11)
- Writer, Dorothy Sayers wrote (from Creed of Chaos?):

The Incarnation means that for whatever reason God allowed us to fall into a condition of being limited, to suffer, to be subject to sorrows & death—He has nonetheless had the honesty & the courage to take his own medicine...He has Himself gone through the whole of human experience, from the trivial irritations of family life and the cramping restrictions of hard work and lack of money to the worst horrors of pain and humiliation, defeat, despair and death..He was born in poverty and died in disgrace and thought it well worthwhile.

How does belief in the fact that God loved us and willingly suffered with/for us change our hearts and draw us into His life?

Prayer

Thank God for the fact that although He is powerful, He made himself weak and vulnerable in order to relate with and rescue us.

Community Group Discussion

- Read scripture together out loud.
- Involve your group by asking the questions & taking the time to share/respond.
- Pray together.

Family Discussion

- Have a child/adult read the passage aloud.
- Involve them by asking questions.
- Ask for prayer requests, invite them to pray & sing a worship song together.