Not What We Would Have Chosen

Overview: Jesus, God in the flesh, came to be born as a baby. But His birth had this clear purpose: He was born to die. Although this path may not be what we would have chosen, it was the only way for Jesus to save us from our sins.

Key Scripture: John 1:1-14

Content

Key Takeaway: Jesus became one of us to save us.

Key Points

- Jesus is God (He is the Word) (v.1)
    - Highlight the nature of Jesus in the opening verses
    - Jesus was with God in the beginning, nothing was made that Has been made, in Him was life and that life was the light of all mankind, the light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it. (v.2-5)
- Jesus did the unexpected: He became human. (He is fully God and fully man) (v. 14)
    - He became a baby – he became weak and vulnerable. He moved into the neighborhood of humanity. How unexpected!
    - God the Son was born in a manger, an animal feeding troth – what humility and sacrifice
- Jesus did the unexpected for a purpose (v.9-13)
    - We can be accepted because Jesus was rejected. This rejection led to His death. (11)
    - We can be accepted as children of God because of what Jesus came to this earth to do – to give of His life for us (v.12, 13)
- Jesus became one of us to save us
    - *Illustration* – think of ways in which you showed up for someone or they showed up for you. Highlight the demonstration of love that this is.
    - We see a perfect picture of this in God showing up for us in Jesus.
    - Jesus was born to die. This may not have been the path that we would have chosen, but it was necessary in order that we may find life.

Gospel Application: When we think of the great lengths that Jesus went to in order to save us, we must recognize that we could never save ourselves. He left the glory of Heaven to become a baby. But He would grow in wisdom, stature, and favor with God and man. And ultimately, He would give of His life and rise again so that all who would put their trust in Jesus could find life.

Key Question: Do I trust and believe that Jesus will always show up for me even if my circumstances are not what I would have chosen?

Application

Activity Suggestions

- Write a prayer thanking Jesus that He shows up for you. Thank Him for His faithfulness and thank Him for His sacrifice. Thank Him for being born among us in order to save us. In your prayer, also ask Him to further help you see how He always has and always will show up for you because He loves you.
- Create prayer prompts to put on the screen at the end of the message. Invite students to get in groups of 3-4, and have one different person pray/thank God for
    - Jesus being God
    - Jesus becoming human
    - Jesus saving us

Community Group Questions

- Where does life feel unexpected right now? Are you experiencing something where you would say, “it is not what I would have chosen?”
- How can the miracle of Jesus becoming a human being teach us about how God may work in unexpected ways?
- Do you believe that Jesus will always show up for you because He is always with you? Have you ever struggled to believe this? Why or why not?
- Since Jesus will always show up for us, how should this change how we live? How can this help us trust the heart of God even if we walk through unexpected circumstances?
- How can you show up for someone else this week?