

Small Group Discussion Guide

THE ONE WHO CAME – Part 1

Northern Hills Community Church

December 4, 2011

Philippians 2:5-11

This guide is to help facilitate discussion with our Small Group. Use it as a resource in discovering and owning the truths of God's Word. There may be questions you do not want to use and there may be instances where you just want to focus on a particular point or truth. Some questions may bring out emotions in some and cause people to dwell on their relationship with God. The purpose of this guide and this experience is not to complete every question. Use this as a flexible learning tool not a rigid task list.

Connect . . .

- When was the first time you remember asking and answering the question, "Who is Jesus?"
- How has your understanding of who Jesus is deepened as you've walked with Him?
- What has God used to deepen your understanding of Jesus? Share the specific Scriptures, people, or books you've encountered and benefited from.
- How does the way you live your life show what you believe about who Jesus is?

Review the Message . . .

1. THE BABY IN THE MANGER IS GOD.

⁵ Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped... (vv. 5-6)

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. (Colossians 1:15)

For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily... (Colossians 2:9)

2. THE BABY IN THE MANGER IS HUMAN.

...but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. (v. 7)

¹⁵For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. (Hebrews 4:15-16)

Discussion/Application Questions

- Read Philippians 2:5-6. What do these two verses tell you about Jesus' attitude toward Himself? Since "your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus," what do these two verses tell you about how your attitude should be?
- Considering the ultimate authority of Jesus—One with the Father and the awesome Creator and Sustainer of the world—why is it significant that He came to the earth as a baby? (see v. 6)
- Read Philippians 2:7. Describe what a newborn baby looks like, feels like, and sounds like. Then, use those same words to describe Jesus as a baby.
- How have people romanticized baby Jesus in various Christmas songs? How can romanticizing him as a baby undermine our view of His humanity? Why is this detrimental to our faith?
- Read each of the following verses, noting what each tells us about Jesus:
 - Isaiah 53:1-5
 - Matthew 4:1-2
 - Matthew 26:38
 - Mark 14:32-34
 - Mark 14:35-38
 - Luke 2:52
 - John 12:27
 - John 20:28

- Colossians 1:15-17
- Colossians 2:9
- Hebrews 2:17-18

- Hebrews 4:14-16
- Revelation 1:8

- How does understanding Jesus' humanity affect the way you should approach God? Refer to the list of verses above in your answer.

3. THE BABY IN THE MANGER IS THE SINLESS SAVIOR.

And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. (v. 8)

²⁴ He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. (1 Peter 2:24)

Discussion/Application Questions

- Read Philippians 2:8. To whom was Jesus ultimately obedient?
- Why is it significant that Jesus subjected Himself to the earthly authorities (such as his parents) in obedience?
- Jesus went from the highest exaltation to the lowest humiliation in obedience to His Father. How must He have felt to be so misunderstood by His creation? What was His response to being misunderstood?
- What emotions do you feel about the truth that Jesus on Mary's lap was born to die a shameful, painful, cursed death?
- It is only through His death that we can be born again. How is this truth at the heart of the gospel? How does this truth give overwhelming hope to your life?

4. THE BABY IN THE MANGER IS THE EXALTED LORD.

⁹ Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (vv. 9-11)

Discussion/Application Questions

- Read Philippians 2:9-11. Even when Jesus was a baby in a manger, He never ceased to be Lord of all. How does the term "Lord" designate Jesus' rightful place of authority?
- What was God's purpose in exalting Jesus?
- Who will ultimately confess the truth that Jesus is Lord?
- Who will receive the glory in this confession?
- How has the Lordship of Jesus changed the way you view the world?
- When did you first make the choice between bowing your knee now or waiting until it's too late?
- Why is it important to continually bow your knee to Jesus on a daily basis?
- What hope do you find in the eternal celebration promised for everyone who bows to Jesus now?
- In application to Philippians 2:5-10, read Philippians 2:3-4. Give 1 practical way you can look out for another person's interest and count them as more important than yourself this Christmas season.