

# God Came Near

## FAITH – week ten

Christmas in a nutshell – God showed up!

Christmas really is all about presence – God's Presence.

John 1:14-18

Matthew 1:18-24

Luke 2:8-20

these are all NIV put them in power point

This morning in our time together we are going to look at 3 reasons why God 2000 years ago, in the person of the Son, left all the glories of heaven put on flesh and came near. Three reasons that if we are SURE and CERTAIN of - will have a huge impact on our lives and the lives of those around us.

### God Came Near To...

## Reveal Himself To Us

No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only who is at the Father's right hand has made Him known. – John 1:18

If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know Him and have seen Him. Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us." Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father..." – John 14:7-9

Hebrews 1:1-3

## Remove The Distance Between Us

Listen! The LORD is not too weak to save you, and he is not becoming deaf. He can hear you when you call. But there is a problem--your sins have cut you off from God. Because of your sin, he has turned away and will not listen anymore. - Is 59:1,2 (NLT)

You used to be far from God. Your thoughts made you His enemies, and you did evil things. But His Son became a human and died. So God made peace with you, and now he lets you stand in His presence as people who are holy and faultless and innocent.

- Colossians 1:21,22 (CEV)

But now in Christ Jesus you who were once far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ. – Ephesians 2:13

How is this distance removed? By GRACE through a FAITH expressed in repentance, confession and baptism (Acts 2:38, Romans 10:9)

Come near to God and He will come near to you. – James 4:8

The ball is in your court...

## Restore His Image In Us

Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.” So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. – Genesis 1:26,27

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!  
– 2 Cor 5:17

For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.– Ephesians 2:10

God knew what he was doing from the very beginning. He decided from the outset to shape the lives of those who love him along the same lines as the life of his Son. The Son stands first in the line of humanity he restored. We see the original and intended shape of our lives there in him. – Romans 8:29 (Msg)

God decided to let his people know this rich and glorious secret which he has for all people. This secret is Christ himself, who is in you. He is our only hope for glory.  
– Colossians 1:27

Yeah, I know it’s crazy, but God really does want to use you to create a better future!

Christ in you the hope of glory.

## Talking Points

1. Read together as a group the following passages about Jesus’ birth and discuss what they **reveal** about God, Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-45, 2:1-40.
2. As a group reflect on the life of Jesus. What does Jesus’ life **reveal** about God?
3. As a group read all the passages in your message notes from Sunday under the point **Remove** The Distance. What words, phrases or concepts really hit you in those passages? What did it cost God to **remove** this distance? Why was he willing to pay such a high price? How does this make you feel?
4. Does the idea of helping create a better future excite you? Why? What is the ultimate source of our **restoration**? Do you think your **restoration** is exciting to God? Why?

**GOD has existed from eternity - but until now He has never had a relationship with you. GOD wants to do a new thing with you. This Christmas consider giving God something He has not had yet, a deeper relationship with you.**