



# Doctrine Discussion Guide

## Week 17 | Incarnation

How are you feeling as we head into the Christmas season? Why is this season filled with so many conflicting emotions?

### Read the CF Statement of Belief

**We believe** that Jesus Christ was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, lived without sin, and is fully God and fully man. *Galatians 4:4; Philipians 2:5-11*

### Theological Truths

Read this overview from the Gospel Coalition as a more in-depth statement of the truths of the incarnation.

1. The person or active subject of the incarnation is the eternal Son. (*John 1:14, Phil. 2:6-8*)
2. As the eternal Son, the second person of the triune Godhead, he is the full image and expression of the Father and is thus fully God. (*Col. 1:15; Heb. 1:3, Col. 2:9*)
3. As God the Son, he has always existed in an eternally ordered relation to the Father and Spirit, which now is gloriously displayed in the incarnation. (*John 1:1-2, 14, 18*)
4. The incarnation is an act of addition, not subtraction. (*Phil. 2:6-8*)
5. The human nature assumed by the divine Son is fully human and completely sinless. (*Matt. 3:15; John 8:46; Heb. 4:15; 7:26; 1 Pet. 1:19*)
6. The virgin conception was the glorious means by which the incarnation took place. (*Matt 1:1-25; Luke 1:26-38*)
7. From conception, the Son limited his divine life in such a way that he did not override the limitations of his human nature. (*Luke 2:52, John 11:33, 35; 19:30; 1 Cor. 15:3-4*)
8. But the Son was not limited to his human nature alone since he continued to act in and through his divine nature. (*Col. 1:16-17; Heb. 1:3*)
9. By taking on our human nature, the Son became the first man of the new creation, our great mediator and new covenant head. (*Heb. 2:10, Heb. 2:5-18; 7:22-28; 9:15-10:18*)
10. God the Son incarnate is utterly unique and alone Lord and Savior. (*John 14:6; Acts 4:11, Rom 5:12-21, Heb. 5:1, Rom. 3:21-26; Heb. 2:5-18*)

## Passages for Study

Read these timestamps and passages and then answer the questions below.

### 4000 years before the birth of Christ

**Genesis 3:15** *I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.*

- Who is speaking? Who is he speaking to?
- How is this prophetic statement fulfilled in the person of Jesus?

### 700 years before the birth of Christ

**Isaiah 7:14** *Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.*

**Micah 5:2** *But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days.*

### 400 years before the birth of Christ

**Malachi 3:1** *Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts.*

### The Birth of Christ

**Matthew 1:18-23** *18 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).*

**John 1:9-14** *The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,*

*who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

- What response does God desire from us as we read these prophecies and fulfillment?
- What fills you with wonder when you consider the incarnation of Jesus?
- What can cause our hearts to harden to the wonder of the incarnation?
- How can we rekindle our personal wonder and worship at the birth of our Savior?
- What are some ideas of how you can rekindle a sense of wonder and worship about the incarnation among your family or your community of believers?

Pray together that God would fill you with wonder at the birth of his Son and would allow you to worship him during this season. Pray he would give you joy, not from the giving of gifts but from the gift of his Son Jesus.