

DOWN TO EARTH

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



WEEK 3 | GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

CONNECT

- The sermon series we have been in is called “Down to Earth.” There are likely some people you know who you would consider to be “down to earth” people. How would you describe someone who is down to earth? What attributes do they have?

CONSIDER

- What encouraged or challenged you from the sermon and/or daily devotions this week?

CHRIST

Read the following two scriptures together as a group:

- **Matthew 1:23** - “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name ‘Immanuel’, which means God with us.”
- **Luke 1:37** - “For nothing will be impossible with God.”
- We know God to be a triune God who exists in the persons: God the Father, God the Son (Jesus), and God the Holy Spirit. One of the central messages we know from the Christmas story is that Jesus was born, became man, and lived amongst us. That is why one of His names is “Immanuel”, which means “God with us.” **How does knowing this make you feel when you read Matthew 1:23 through the context and lense of Luke 1:37? How does it make you feel to know that God is with us and nothing is impossible with God?**
- Many of our sports celebrities have reached a God-like status in our culture today. For example, basketball star LeBron James from a very early age was dubbed “The Chosen One”, meaning he could lead a team to “The Promised Land”; in this case an NBA championship. Of course, we know the dangers of giving any man this type of worship other than the One truly worthy of this title; the man Christ Jesus. **However, using this analogy, with Jesus on your team, what does victory look like to you? Worded another way, with Jesus on my team, I can accomplish what _____ (fill in the blank)?**
- When Jesus came down to earth, He embodied what it means to be “in this world”, but not “of this world.” He was tempted and tried just like any other man, yet did not sin. **While none of us are perfect and we may all sin and fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23), how do we best live “in this world”, but not be “of this world” in 21st century America?**
- Read John 1:14. This verse tells us that Jesus, The Word of God, dwelt among us...full of grace and truth. **Discuss what it means to live by the example Jesus gave us by showing both grace and truth to people today.**

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CALLING

- **Daily Devotions:** Take the time to read the daily devotions associated with this study. Then, to continue with this spiritual habit of daily devotion with God, text JOINGOD to 81411 or use the Study tab in Northside's App to receive devotions on a daily basis moving forward.
- To open this time of discussion, you were asked to list the attributes of someone you would consider to be "down to earth." If you look up this expression of "down to earth", you'll see definitions such as; sensible, practical, natural, and real or realistic. For you, other words or definitions may have come to mind. However, chances are, no matter which words you chose, those words describe someone who might be difficult to share your faith with.
 - How do you describe miracles to a "sensible" person?
 - How do you explain the supernatural to someone you would call "natural"?
 - How do you relate an unseen God to a "realist"?

As you head into the holidays when you'll likely see some family and friends that don't know this "down to earth" Jesus, spend some time thinking about how you would explain Jesus to a sensible, practical, realistic person. Some of the resources listed below might help.
- **Further Study and Reflection:**
 - Read: "Four Attitudes Needed for Sharing the Gospel" from the Disciple Maker magazine:
(<https://www.navpress.com/sites/thedisciplemaker/2017/05/4-attitudes-needed-for-sharing-the-gospel/>).
 - Read "Sharing Your Faith 101" from the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association:
(<https://billygraham.org/story/sharing-your-faith-101/>).
- **Memorize:** *"She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."* - **Matthew 1:21**