

LOVE



Pastor Dave Patterson ADVENT Part 3 Love

USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures referenced in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to facilitate a discussion.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together.

While the questions are important, remember your small group's goal is not to pound through the questions but to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships, so knock yourself out with the discussion questions but spend more time laughing than answering the questions.

[Luke 2:1-19]

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. And everyone went to their own town to register.

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were

terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.

[Philippians 2:6-11 (CEV)]

Christ was truly God. But he did not try to remain equal with God. Instead he gave up everything and became a slave, when he became like one of us. Christ was humble. He obeyed God and even died on a cross. Then God gave Christ the highest place and honored his name above all others.

[Hebrews 4:15 (AMP)]

*For we do not have a High Priest who is unable to sympathize and understand our weaknesses and temptations, but Jesus, who has been tempted **knowing exactly how it feels to be human in every respect as we are**, yet without committing any sin.*

[John 15:13]

"There is no greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends."

[Mark 10:45]

"For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What has been your fondest Christmas memory?
2. What Christmas traditions do you love and which could you do without?
3. What is your definition of "love"?
4. Have you ever experienced unconditional love? How did it make you feel? What was your response to it?
5. What would motivate God to send His Son to this fallen world?
6. Have you ever seen someone sacrifice something for someone else?
7. Have you experienced a love that didn't last?
8. Spend sometime giving thanks to God for sending His Son to us that we could be recipients of His great love that has no end.