

# THE Christ CONNECTION

"I am the *vine*. You are the *branches*. If anyone remains *joined to me*, and I to him, he will bear a lot of fruit. You can't do anything without me."

## Adult Bible Study

### Part 2: Connected in Christmas



#### WHO IS JESUS?

This question has been asked and answered in a variety of ways for over 2000 years. No other question so readily defines a person's core beliefs. The Christian faith is the only one that stands with the apostle Peter in saying ...the Christ, the Son of the living God (Matthew 16:16 ESV). That Jesus Christ is at the same time both fully divine and fully human is too difficult for any of us to completely understand. Even His conception is a miracle! God has left the details of Jesus' birth as a human (the Incarnation) shrouded in mystery; we can only receive this revelation through the gift of faith.

This world-changing event is not necessarily obvious to everyone. We believe, teach and confess that God our Creator loved us enough to become human. He loved us enough to live the life of a servant. He willingly suffered the shame and humiliation of a criminal's death, and defeated it.

- Do you believe this is the most important, world-changing event in human history?
- Why or why not?

#### THE HUMANITY OF JESUS

**In our last session we looked at a passage in the first chapter of Colossians. Let's continue by reading Colossians 1:17-22.**

- What does this passage say about Christ being fully human and fully God?
- According to verses 21 and 22, what is the purpose of Jesus becoming human?

**Read Hebrews 2:8-15. In the passage, "them" [humans] are made lower than angels.**

- What does it mean to be made lower than the angels? (v. 9)
- Why is it necessary that Jesus is human? (v. 9, 14 and 15)
- How was this accomplished?

**Read Hebrews 4:14-16.**

- In what additional way are we connected to Jesus?
- In what way is Jesus' humanity different from ours?
- What does this add to the accounts of Jesus' temptation in the wilderness?  
(Matthew 4, Mark 1, and Luke 4)

**The theme verse for our study is John 15:5. Read John 15:1-6.**

- How does the illustration of the Vine and the branch help us better understand our connection to Christ?
- How does Christ's birth support this physical connection?
- What is the result of this Christ Connection?

We often limit our discussion of faith and Jesus Christ to our spirituality.

- Many of us have sung, "We are one in the Spirit..." Being one in the Spirit includes people of all abilities. We are all sinners; we all need Christ. Think about people you know who have disabilities. Are they all included at your place of worship? Why or why not?
- Do people with disabilities have the chance to serve in your congregation? Why or why not?

It is important to remember that our physicality is essential to our Christian walk, and central to the promises God has given us as well as our spirituality.

**Read Matthew 25:34-40.**

- As human, Christ understood the importance of service. How should our physical connection to Christ respond to this passage?

Jesus became human and lived perfectly, keeping the law we cannot. We were redeemed by His physical death, and will be united with God for eternity in our physically resurrected bodies. Jesus Christ maintains this relationship with all of us by making us a part of His body, the Church, through baptism. He strengthens this connection in the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper; here we are reminded our Lord and Savior is physically present among us until His return.