

# We Can Know How We Are Supposed To Live

Lesson 03 of the series: "The Incarnation."

## 1. Because Jesus is God in the flesh, we can see how God intends us to live.

"When the angels had returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, 'Let's go to Bethlehem! Let's see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.' They hurried to the village and found Mary and Joseph. And there was the baby, lying in the manger. After seeing him, the shepherds told everyone what had happened and what the angel had said to them about this child...The shepherds went back to their flocks, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. It was just as the angel had told them." -Luke 2:15-17,20 (NLT)

"This one who is life itself was revealed to us, and we have seen him. And now we testify and proclaim to you that he is the one who is eternal life. He was with the Father, and then he was revealed to us. We proclaim to you what we ourselves have actually seen and heard so that you may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ." -1 John 1:2-3 (NLT)

*Life Application:* Jesus still invites us to come and see Him.

"As Jesus walked by, John looked at him and declared, 'Look! There is the Lamb of God!' When John's two disciples heard this, they followed Jesus. Jesus looked around and saw them following. 'What do you want?' he asked them. They replied, 'Rabbi' (which means 'Teacher'), 'where are you staying?' 'Come and see,' he said."  
-John 1:36-39 (NLT)

"Then Jesus said, 'Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls.'"  
-Matthew 11:28-29 (NLT)

## 2. Jesus showed us how to live in total dependency on God.

"So Jesus explained, 'I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself. He does only what he sees the Father doing. Whatever the Father does, the Son also does.'" -John 5:19 (NLT)

*Note:* Even though Jesus is God, He lived as a man.

"Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being." -Philippians 2:6-7 (NLT)

Jesus demonstrated his total dependency on God the Father by:

### a. Surrendering.

"I can do nothing on my own. I judge as God tells me. Therefore, my judgment is just, because I carry out the will of the one who sent me, not my own will." -John 5:30 (NLT)

### b. Listening.

"...I do nothing on my own but say only what the Father taught me." -John 8:28 (NLT)

"But Jesus told him, 'No!' The Scriptures say, 'People do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" -Matthew 4:4 (NLT)

### c. Praying.

"Pray like this: Our Father in heaven, may your name be kept holy. May your Kingdom come soon. May your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven." -Matthew 6:9-10 (NLT)

"Father, if you are willing, please take this cup of suffering away from me. Yet, I want your will to be done, not mine." -Luke 22:42 (NLT)

### d. Obeying.

"Then Jesus explained: 'My nourishment comes from doing the will of God, who sent me, and from finishing his work.'" -John 4:34 (NLT)

"For I have come down from heaven to do the will of God who sent me, not to do my own will." -John 6:38 (NLT)

*Life Application:* We must choose to live in total dependence on God.

*We must:*

- Surrender
- Listen
- Pray
- Obey

“Those who say they live in God should live their lives as Jesus did.” -1 John 2:6 (NLT)

### **3. Jesus makes it possible for us to live in dependency on God.**

“I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one—as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me.” -John 17:21 (NLT)

*Note:* We cannot live the Christian life in our own power.

“Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing.” -John 15:5 (NLT)

“The Spirit alone gives eternal life. Human effort accomplishes nothing...” -John 6:63 (NLT)

“But now I am going away to the One who sent me... it is best for you that I go away, because if I don't, the Advocate won't come. If I do go away, then I will send him to you... When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future. He will bring me glory by telling you whatever he receives from me. All that belongs to the Father is mine; this is why I said, 'The Spirit will tell you whatever he receives from me.'” -John 16:5,7,13-15 (NLT)

*Life Application:* “Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives.”  
-Galatians 5:25 (NLT)

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## Connect Group Questions

To prepare for this week's meeting, take some time to focus on the following questions and write out a few brief answers. Be prepared to share them with your group.

### My Story

1. Looking back at your notes from this week's message on "The incarnation: We Can Know How We Are Supposed To Live," was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?
2. What is your favorite Christmas memory from your childhood?
3. Who is the best role model you've ever had? Why was he/she such a good influence on you?

### Going Deeper

1. Read and discuss the following passages that record Jesus in action:
  - Matthew 15:1-12
  - Matthew 17:14-21
  - Mark 1:35-39
  - John 11:1-14

What did the disciples see? What did you learn about God?

2. What do the following verses teach us about depending on God?
  - John 5:19, 30
  - John 6:63
  - John 8:28-29
  - John 15:5

### Life Application

1. No matter how many times you invite your next-door neighbor to worship he refuses to come. He loves to remind you that all churches are full of hypocrites and that in his opinion, "Nobody is doing church right and nobody can." How do you respond to him? Why do Christians believe people can actually follow Jesus? Where does our confidence come from?
2. Discuss the following lyrics from the Christmas carol "O Come, Let Us Adore Him":

"O Come All Ye Faithful, Joyful and triumphant; O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem; Come and behold Him; Born the King of Angels; O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord."

"All Hail! Lord, we greet Thee, Born this happy morning; O Jesus! for evermore be Thy name adored; Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing; O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord."

Why did John Francis Wade, the author of this carol, encourage us to behold Jesus and adore Him?

3. Read Galatians 5:25. In his message this week, Shane reminded us that to live in total dependence on God we need to:
  - Surrender
  - Listen
  - Pray
  - Obey

Which of these steps will you be working on in 2015? Why? How does failure in following these steps interfere with our relationship with God? ...our relationships with others?

4. Spend some time as a group praying that we would live dependently on Jesus and that others would see Jesus living in and through us. Also, pray that we will be able to hear God speaking to us and that he will give us the desire and the power to follow Him (See Philippians 2:13).

**Resources:**

Flesh: Bringing the Incarnation Down to Earth. By Hugh Halter, David C. Cook Publishers / 2014

The Case for Christmas: A Journalist Investigates the Identity of the Child in the Manger. By: Lee Strobel, Zondervan / 2005

The Best Christmas Pageant Ever. By: Barbara Robinson & Joanna Cotler, Harper Collins Publishers / 1982