Series: The Revealing of God Scripture: John 1:1-14 Date: Dec. 10 & 11, 2016

—[LET'S START]—

• What is the family you grew up with like?

-[LET'S TALK]-

- 1. Do you find it difficult to talk with unchurched people about your faith? Why or why not?
 - Where are the unchurched people in your OIKOS? (Family, neighbors, coworkers, etc.)
 - How important is it to have unchurched people in your OIKOS?
- 2. Have you ever had doubts about faith? What were some of the circumstances, and what were some of the questions that arose during that time?
 - How did you get past those questions and doubts?
- 3. Why is Jesus called "the Word," and what significance does that have?
- 4. Has your faith in God helped you during a time of pain or suffering? If so, in what way?
 - How does Jesus make a difference in someone's trials?
 - How does Jesus change our ability to relate to God?
- 5. Read 1 Peter 3:13-17 and talk about reasons for believing in Jesus.
 - What is your reason for the hope that you have in Christ?
 - Why is it important to have reasons for faith?
 - What does suffering for doing good have to do with having reasons for faith?

-[LET'S ACT]-

• Consider how you could bring Jesus into your family Christmas this year in a new or gentle way. As you look ahead to Christmas plans, if your family are all believers, plan something unique, different, or fun that you could do to place a higher focus on Christ this year. If your family has non-believers, plan a small and gentle way to express your love for Jesus.

-[SERMON REVIEW]-

- Sometimes when we experience suffering or see others going through it, we are tempted to doubt God's existence! A question quietly enters the back of our mind: Is God real?
- Unfortunately, due to our human limitation, we cannot have *absolute* proof. We must take all the available evidence, and come to the conclusion that is most supported (not absolutely supported) by that evidence.
- When this is done with honesty, the conclusion that God exists is most supported by the evidence we have in life. People are only able to reject the existence of God when they demand absolute proof, or retreat into a skeptical relativist box where evidence doesn't matter anyway.
- Another question people wonder about is "Why doesn't God reveal Himself to us?" The truth is He did! That is what happened at Christmas!
- At Christmas, the source of all creation, God, The Word, became flesh! God became soft, vulnerable, and killable! He came down to us. Jesus is Immanuel: God with us.
- God is bringing us ever closer to Him. In the Old Testament, God was with us in the Tabernacle and the Temple. When Jesus came, God showed up as our neighbor. When Jesus rose from the dead and ascended into heaven, God came to indwell our very hearts through His Spirit!
- No matter where you are, or what you're going through, if you are in Christ, God is with you!

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