

1. Just for fun: Did you have a sense of wonder at Christmas when you were a child? What was Christmas morning like when you were 5 years old?
2. Read Luke 2:8-18. Describe the sense of wonder the shepherds would have had after being visited by angels. What types of things do you think Mary pondered in her heart after hearing from the shepherds? What types of things do you usually ponder in your heart during Christmas time? How would it change your perspective on Christmas if you pondered the same things Mary pondered?
3. Wondering and pondering are not usually items that make it on our to-do list during Christmas. If you did put them on your list, what would you have to do to make them happen?
4. How does wondering about the compassion of Christ prevent Christmas from being reduced to a retail event or empty tradition?
5. What is incarnation? What is the significance of the word “sent” in 1John 4:9? Read John 17:18. Do you operate as an incarnational missionary who is sent by God in the world just as Jesus was sent? How would your week be different if you believed you were sent by God to the people in your community?
6. Do you ever wonder how God loves you? Do you ever wonder how you ought to love others? Think of the people (maybe some you have yet to meet) who are the hardest for you to love?
  - a. How can you love them with a humble love?
  - b. How can you love them with a costly love?
  - c. How can you love them with a perfecting love?
7. God is perfecting love in us as we obey his command to go into the world and love others. How does our knowledge of God’s love for us grow as we love one another?
8. No one has ever seen God, but if we love one another what will the world be inclined to do? How have you seen God in those who have shown love to you?