

Jesus Christ is...

1. The _____ of God

"He is the **image** of the invisible God..." *Colossians 1:15a (NIV)*

"image" = _____

"No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father's side, has made him known." *John 1:18*

"Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father..." *John 14:9*

"God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see..." *1 Timothy 6:15b-16*

2. The _____ of God

"For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together." *Colossians 1:16-17*

3. The _____ of God

"He is ... the **firstborn** over all creation." *Colossians 1:15b*

"firstborn" = _____

"I will also appoint him my firstborn, the most exalted of the kings of the earth." *Psalms 89:27*

"And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy." *Colossians 1:18*

4. The _____ of God

"For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross." *Colossians 1:19-20*

Ask: _____ ?

Daily Meditations

Monday

Look back over your weekend sermon notes. What points meant the most to you?

How can an understanding of the incarnation make a difference in the way you experience the Christmas season?

The Colossian Christians were influenced by teachings that watered down the impact of what Christ did when He came to earth as a human being. How could Christians in Santa Cruz, California, fall prey to the same kind of thinking?

How can we guard against it?

Today thank God that at Christmas He determined not just to visit us, but to reconcile to Himself all things.

Tuesday

Read Colossians 1:15–19, Isaiah 40:28, John 14:9, and Galatians 4:4. According to these verses, who would you say Jesus Christ is?

How has this — or could this — make a difference in your life?

How have you seen Christ's power and preeminence demonstrated in your life?

Thank God today for coming to earth as a human being at Christmas. Thank Him for the amazing power He has and the desire He has to let you know who He is!

Wednesday

Read Ephesians 1:4–5, Ephesians 2:13–14, and Colossians 1:20–21. These verses speak of God's plan to “reconcile to Himself all things”. Why do you think coming to earth as a human being was an important part of that plan?

What aspect of this plan to reconcile to Himself all things are you most awestruck by this season?

How are you “continuing in your faith”? How is your life different than it was a year ago?

What will you do in the coming year to grow in your faith?

Thank God for reconciling you to Himself! Ask Him to help as you continue in your faith.

Thursday

Read Matthew 1:18–25. How would you feel in Joseph's place?

How is the child described in verse 23?

How have our studies of the past two weeks deepened your appreciation of what “Immanuel” means?

How have you experienced Jesus as “Immanuel” in your life?

What do you learn about faith from Joseph?

Thank God today that He is Immanuel!

Friday

Read Hebrews 1:1–8. This is another great passage about the incarnation. According to verses 1 and 2, how was Jesus similar to the prophets, yet different?

Of all the qualities about Jesus mentioned in verses 2–4, which one are you beginning to appreciate more and more?

Thank Jesus that He came not just to visit us, but to provide cleansing for your sin!

Saturday

Polish up the memory verse and catch up on any devotions you may have missed. Please pray that this weekend's services will be a powerful experience as we build on our study of the incarnation. Thanks!



Memory Verse

“He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.”
Colossians 1:15 (NIV)