# touch

## living incarnationally

## the mystery of christmas

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was with God in the beginning. <sup>3</sup>Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.

John 1:1-3

we have been given <u>life</u>
In him was life, and that life was the light of men.

John 1:4

we are not alone in the dark

The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.... <sup>9</sup> The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world.

John 1:5; 9

#### we can <u>receive</u> him

He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. <sup>11</sup> He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.

John 1:10-11

#### we are children of god

Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of  $\operatorname{God}$ —  $^{13}$  children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of  $\operatorname{God}$ .

John 1:12-13

#### jesus <u>understands</u>

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.

John 1:14a

we have a new <u>standard</u>: incarnational living
We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. <sup>16</sup> From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another. <sup>17</sup> For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

<sup>18</sup> No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father's side, has made him known.

John 1:14b, 16-18

## incarnational living

incarnational living says, as a child of god i will

... be <u>life</u> giving

"Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life."

Acts 5:20

... seek to be a <u>light</u> in the world

"You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. 
<sup>15</sup> Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. 
<sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

Matt 5:14-16

### ... enters into people's story

Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

Galatians 6:2

... change your identity to servant

(Jesus) made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. *Philippians 2:7* 

... bring grace and truth

Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. *Ephesians 4:15* 

share = incarnational living

#### next steps

Christmas offering – red envelopes
Welcome strangers
Share as a lifestyle
Serve as an identity
Recommended Reading:
The God who became Human by Graham A Cole