



Opening

Can God be known? How do we get to know anybody? How do you relate?

— Baby photos. Whose Mother has whipped them out when a guest appears in your house? Jonny – Photos. Louise first time: baby photos (she does know what I look like)

— Ava looks like her dad. She has the family resemblance. Jonny / Ava / Dad. Cancer.

— Child drawing. 'What are you drawing?' 'God'. 'But no one knows what God looks like'. 'They will when I have finished'. Pic.

Scripture

14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. **John 1:14 ESV**

Why would God do this? What does this tell us about being human? John teaches us about Jesus: • Born of God – 'born out of God' • Became a man – 'not made' • He took on flesh, took on human form. Lived amongst us.

He became what we are, that we might become what he is.

Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Three in One and One in Three.

Helpful to think: Who and what? So I think of heroes like **Spider-Man** he is actually two who's and two what's he is Peter Parker a college student male young but it's also Spider-Man superhero super powers. Or Transformers! **Optimus Prime** is one who two what's.

God is three who's and one what 🙌

Baptise in THE NAME OF not names. One name.

Not three different gods.

Nor three different aspects of god (hats).

Always existed like that. Always uniquely different.

Many today believe in: No god. Many gods. One god.

Christians believe: God is revealed to us through Jesus Christ

If God has always existed 3 in 1. Then God has always existed as love, friendship, a community that serve, honour and love one another.

God didn't start to be loving when he created us and when we showed up
He always was, always is and always will be.

And this is why who God is it is one of the biggest answers to who we are

It's why we need identity and purpose

It's why we need to be loved and not be isolated

It's why we need to be supported and also to care for others by serving them

1. At Christmas Jesus came, and **became**, not like a human, but as a human. Incarnation is at the heart of Christian understanding that the coming of the divine Son of God as a human, came in the person of Jesus Christ. He is one person with two natures. 100% divine 100% human. One of a kind. God has a face.
2. **Born of God** v13. Or Born Out of God. Only God could beget God. The gospel announces it's finally happened. Jesus is here, the one through whom all things were made, puts his fragile newborn life into the hands of humanity. A thousand times in history a baby has become a king, but only once in history did a King become a baby. This is so counter cultural to the worlds expectation of power. If Jesus has done that, then we can believe he has also come to show us all the way to God and to see who God really is. In the words of Silent Night: 'Jesus Lord at thy birth.', Born of God!
3. **Became a man** v14. Took on the human form of flesh. God comes near – as we look where God turned up then, (in a manger in Bethlehem) you might yet discover where God is turning up now. He had to be conceived by the Holy Spirit so as the son of God he could take on flesh the eternal son of God was now a baby. This is the face of God, the invisible becomes visible, the unknown is made known. He became what we are.

The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighbourhood. We saw the glory with our own eyes, the one-of-a-kind glory, like Father, like Son, Generous inside and out, true from start to finish. **John 1:14 MSG**

4. **Lived among us**. Moved into the neighbourhood. Why is this important to why he came? Moving home is hard? Exciting but extremely stressful too. Moving at Christmas time, we've done that once. God traveled a great distance, from heaven to a stable, to be close to you. It is so relatable. Where often we feel people of power and gods are so out of touch, out of reach, you can come face to face with Jesus. Jesus reveals exactly what God is like. All of the Bible and the Christmas story is about him. The Lord became flesh and walked among us, into our neighbourhood and into our very lives.

For God, who said, "Let there be light in the darkness," has made this light shine in our hearts so we could **know** the glory of God that is seen in **the face** of Jesus Christ.

2 Cor 4:6 NLT

Conclusion

He became what we are, that we might become what he is.

What do you think about God? Why would God do this?

This Christmas this is what being human really means. In all the confusion, the hurry, the uncertainty. To believe in Jesus transforms us into our real selves. He shows us who God is, to restore our relationship with him.

If Christmas is just a nice story, a particular time of year, and God doesn't exist and cannot be known, in a sense you are on your own. But if Christmas is true, then you can have a God that is with you always and receive a new birth into God's family.

You don't have to be born into a particular family area time or place. Anyone can become a child of God. The unknown (God) becomes known (in Jesus) so YOU can know and be known (Holy Spirit)

But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God **John 1:12 ESV**

Application

Thank God you know the God that can be known. How's that for certainty?
Invite God in to show you more of who He is this Christmas. Show me.
Ask God to come into your life. Jesus Lord at thy birth be my Lord.

I think God has your picture framed.