

# Discussion Questions

December 17, 2023



## Noel: He is Born Why Jesus' Humanity Matters

### 1. Read Acts 10:36-38

- What does Luke tell us about how Jesus did all that He did?
- Give examples of ways we see in scripture that God was with Jesus, empowering Him.

### 2. Discuss Dallas Willard's usage of the term, "Vampire Christians" which he describes as: "One in effect says to Jesus: "I'd like a little of your blood, please. But I don't care to be your student or have your character. In fact, won't you just excuse me while I get on with my life, and I'll see you in heaven."

- Where have you seen this tendency a reality in your life or in the church at large?

### 3. Read John 16:5-9

- Put yourself in the disciples shoes. What they would be thinking & feeling hearing this?
- If this is still true today, what practical difference should having the Holy Spirit make in our lives today?

### 4. Read John 2:6

- What does it mean to "walk in the same way in which Jesus walked?"
- Along the same lines, discuss the following quote from Dr. John Holden. "In the spiritual as in the natural world there is a law which teaches that the same cause will, under the same conditions, produce the same consequence. Hence, under the same conditions of surrender and dependence as in which our Lord lived His earthly life, the same cause - the Eternal Spirit - will produce the same consequence, and our lives can thus be like His life (in kind though not in degree)"

### 5. What are practical ways we can grow in being more dependent upon Jesus through the Holy Spirit?

### 6. As you look forward to celebrating Christmas with friends and extended family, what are the likely places/people/environments you might struggle most with demonstrating the love of Christ, and how can you be proactive?

**Luke 19:10 (NIV)**

*For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.*

**Mark 10:45 (NIV)**

*For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.*

**John 3:16 (NIV)**

*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.*

**John 10:10 (NIV)**

*I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.*

**John 17:3 (NASB 2020)**

*And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.*

**Philippians 2:5–8 (NLT)**

*You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; [EMPTIED HIMSELF] he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross.*

**Genesis 1:27**

*So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.*

**Genesis 1:31**

*Then God looked over all he had made, and he saw that it was very good!*

**John 5:19–20 (NLT)**

*I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself. He does only what he sees the Father doing. Whatever the Father does, the Son also does. For the Father loves the Son and shows him everything he is doing.*

**John 8:26**

*He [God] who sent me [Jesus] is trustworthy, and what I have heard from him I tell the world...*

**John 8:28b-29**

*I do nothing on my own but speak just what the Father has taught me. The one who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone, for I always do what pleases him.*

**John 10:31-32 (NIV)**

*Again his Jewish opponents picked up stones to stone him, but Jesus said to them, "I have shown you many good works from the Father. For which of these do you stone me?"*

**Acts 10:38**

*Now God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.*

**John 3:34 (NLT)**

For he is sent by God. He speaks God's words, for God gives him the Spirit without limit.

**Luke 3:21b-22**

The heavens were opened, and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

**Luke 4:1**

And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness.

**Luke 4:14**

And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee.

**Luke 4:18**

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed.

**Luke 10:21**

At that time Jesus, full of joy through the Holy Spirit, said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do."

**Acts 1:1-2**

I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen.

**1 John 2:6**

Whoever claims to live in him [Jesus] must live as Jesus did.

**Dallas Willard**

I call these 'vampire Christians.' One in effect says to Jesus: 'I'd like a little of your blood, please. But I don't care to be your student or have your character. In fact, won't you just excuse me while I get on with my life, and I'll see you in heaven.'

**John 16:7 (ESV)**

I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper [Holy Spirit] will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you.

**John: 20:22**

Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit."

**Dr. Gerald Hawthorne - The Power and the Presence**

The Spirit was the presence and power of God in Jesus, and fully so. Thus the life of Jesus was the realization on earth, perhaps for the first time, of God's ideal for human beings, the fulfillment of the divine intention for them when God said, Let us make man in our image and after our likeness" (Genesis 1:26). But Jesus' life was not only the realization of the ideal, it is the pattern to follow, the source of hope for every succeeding generation of Jesus' followers.

**Dallas Willard**

I am learning from Jesus to live my life as he would live my life if he were I.