

# Unstoppable Force

## Week 3 | God Didn't Invite You To Church

### BOTTOM LINE

Jesus is the horizontal incarnation (think arrow from heaven down to earth) and we are the vertical incarnation (think arrow from inside the church to out into the world). Jesus came down from His throne to show us God in the flesh. We are called to go out into the world to show the world God in the flesh.

### GOAL OF THE GROUP

To discuss what it looks like to be the incarnation of God to the world around us.

### SCRIPTURE

John 20:21, John 1:14, Mark 10:45, 1 Corinthians 9:22, 1 Peter 3:15

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Share:** If you attended a church as a child, describe what you remember it feeling like. Consider whether church felt different from the other places you spent time (at home, for example). Think about the way people acted, talked, dressed, etc.
- Read John 20:21** and discuss.
  - Jesus found the disciples fearful, huddled together, and hiding out because they thought He was dead and gone. When He appears to them, alive again, and shares these words what do you think He means?
  - Jesus does NOT say to his disciples: "Peace be with you. Invite others to join you in this room you have gathered in". Instead He says "I send you". In what ways do you see these words from Jesus being lived out by His followers today? In what ways do you see His followers seemingly misunderstanding these words?
- How are we to practice the horizontal incarnation? By imitating the vertical incarnation!
  - Read John 1:14:** This describes the vertical incarnation. Jesus is "The Word". He gives up His power, becomes human, and moves into the neighborhood. How does this inspire you to imitate Him?
  - Read Mark 10:45:** We have opportunities every day to put others before ourselves. What if we started every day with the thought "It's not about ME." Think of an opportunity you had this week to put someone else first. Did you choose to do it? Or not? Explain.
  - Read 1 Corinthians 9:22:** In this verse the apostle Paul is describing how he makes his dwelling among various groups of people and relates to them where they are. Name some places you currently "dwell" which offers you unique access to people, relationships, impact, and influence. Do you see these as places where you can BE the church? Explain.
  - Read 1 Peter 3:15:** It's important that we proclaim the truth about Jesus through our actions of love and serving. But it's also important that we are able to proclaim the truth about Jesus with our words. Would you be able to "give an answer" if you were asked to "give a reason for the hope you have"? What would you say?
- Pray:** God, thank you for sending Jesus to be the incarnation of you so that we have a perfect human example of how you love people. Give us your heart for the people in the world and help us to love like you do by putting others first. Fill me up to overflowing and when someone asks about my hope, give me the words to share how great your truth is!

"Share the gospel at all times,  
and when appropriate, use words"  
– Saint Francis



## TRY THIS

*Start each day this week by stating "It's not about me" and by asking God to show you how you can be the incarnation of His incredible love as you go through your day. Watch for opportunities to put other's first and to show love. Write down things you see/do and share with the group next time you meet.*