



IMMANUEL CHURCH

Conversation Starter: Just Work
November 26, 2017

Opening Questions:

- Describe the feelings you have when you start seeing Christmas decorations up in the stores. Is it excitement? Dread? Do you feel overwhelmed? Why do you think that's the feeling you get? Where'd it come from?
- If Christmas is so much work, why do we do it? And why do we seem to do *more* of it every year? What's the point? Who is it for? If we're gonna go through all that hassle, doesn't it seem like it should be for something bigger than just...getting through it?

Looking at Scripture:

- Read **Luke 2:8-20...** Ordinary shepherds, ordinary work in an ordinary field...imagine for a minute what the conversation between these shepherds might have been like before the angel showed up. What might their attitudes have been like? What sort of things might they have said given it was another "blah" night doing their "blah" job?
- The angel arrives and suddenly everything switches from ordinary to extraordinary. Where in your life have you seen God show up in an otherwise ordinary situation to make it something more? Why do we seem to always need outside help in order to see that happen?
- What things in your life (maybe in your house) are common items that mean more to you than they might to everyone else? What happened that made those so important? How did God use it to show you something extraordinary?
- The shepherds went from just going through the motions of their job to using it for glorifying God...their ordinary was suddenly about so much more. While their job itself didn't change, what they did with it changed. What are some practical ways you can make the work of Christmas more? How can you do better at infusing Jesus into the ordinary and watch him make it all extraordinary?

Application Questions:

- The bottom line from this week was **JESUS INFUSES THE ORDINARY WITH THE EXTRAORDINARY.** What ordinary parts of your own story need an extraordinary infusion? What does it look like for you to make space for that? What needs to change?
- Josh suggested we start looking at Christmas lights as more than ordinary lights...but as reminders of those angels in that field—decorations as reminders of the shepherds and wrapped presents to point to the savior that was wrapped in the manger. What are other ordinary Christmas components that you could infuse with more meaning to remind you of the extraordinary in this season?

End your time together praying God uses all the decorations and celebrations of this holiday season to remind you of the extraordinary Jesus. Ask him to constantly keep your mind and heart focused on him so you're not left with just work.