

Discussion Questions for “Love Takes Flesh”

1. When you hear the word *love*, what images or experiences most often come to mind? How did this sermon expand or challenge that understanding?
2. Billy talked about the difference between *saying* you care and *showing up*. Where have you experienced the difference between words of love and embodied presence?

Engaging the Text

3. In Isaiah 7, God gives Ahaz a sign even when Ahaz refuses to trust Him. What does this reveal about God’s love and faithfulness, especially when people struggle with fear or doubt?
4. Matthew tells us that Jesus fulfills the promise of **Emmanuel, God with us**. Why is God’s *presence* such a powerful expression of love, especially in times of uncertainty or suffering?
5. Paul describes the gospel as God keeping promises made long ago (Romans 1:1-7). How does seeing Christmas as part of a long, faithful story shape the way you understand God’s love?

Joseph’s Example

6. Joseph responds to God’s call with obedience, even though it disrupts his plans and reputation. What stands out to you about Joseph’s response, and why do you think his quiet faithfulness matters so much in the story?
7. Where might God be inviting you to respond in faithful obedience, not because it’s easy, but because it’s an act of love and trust?

Reflecting on Love

8. Billy described biblical love as **self-giving presence, covenant faithfulness, and movement toward others rather than away**. Which of these aspects of love do you find most challenging to live out right now? Why?

Personal & Communal Application

9. Advent invites us not only to receive God’s incarnational love but to live it out. Who in your life right now might need your presence more than your advice or solutions?
10. As we move toward Christmas, what is one concrete way you can practice *incarnational love* this week (showing up, staying faithful, or moving toward someone in need rather than away)?