

CHRISTMAS LITE?

| Discussion Notes

This week we're looking at how we can make sure Christmas isn't just a time of consumerism and looking inward, but instead an opportunity to serve our city and help bring justice.

Start by reading John 1:1-14.

Sam shared that we can learn three things about justice from this passage, in particular verse 14: That justice means joining with God's story, seeing the human and making justice personal.

JOINING GOD'S STORY

John sets the Christmas story within the wider context of the creation of the world and reminds us that it is part of this much bigger story. So the nativity story is the definitive chapter in God's story of bringing justice and redemption to the world.

- Have you considered this bigger picture of God's story of justice before?
- How should it change how we view justice today?
- Are you ever tempted to feel like you are the 'superhero' when it comes to justice, feeling like it is all down to you to save the world and make the difference?
- Sam said that social justice today can often feel very immediate (we need change right now) and very intense (it is all up to me to fix this), do you agree? If so, how does viewing our role as just joining God's story of justice change our perspective?

SEE THE HUMAN

John explains that Jesus took on flesh when he was born, an idea that is shocking to both the Jews and Greeks that were reading John's words. In doing so, God says once and for all that humans, and even the human body, have dignity.

- Where do we as a society dehumanise others and what are the consequences?
- Have you considered how your shopping habits this Christmas might affect other people around the world?
- How can we make sure that we are 'seeing the human' and recognising the dignity of others this Christmas?

MAKE IT PERSONAL

The message translates John 1:14 as 'The word took on flesh and blood and moved into the neighbourhood.' Sam explained that at Christmas Jesus came to the poor and marginalised and then spent the rest of his life with these people. In doing so, he shows us that justice should be personal.

- When do we 'do justice from arms length', keeping distance between ourselves and the poor or afflicted?
- What are the challenges to making justice personal?
- How can we as a Hub make sure that we are helping bring justice to the area that we live in?

Finally, spend some time praying for each other to live this out. And with Metro Carols approaching next week, pray for the friends that we are inviting to come along.