

RIVERSIDE ANGLICAN CHURCHES
QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION OR REFLECTION
The God who becomes a human being

Note – This study is adapted and expanded from ‘The God who is there – Leaders Guide’ by D.A. Carson. His book ‘The God who is there’ may be profitably read as a companion to this sermon series.

1. Six centuries before Jesus was born, the prophet Jeremiah promised a new covenant (Jeremiah 31:31-3-34). What does this promise implicitly say about the old covenant (the one with Moses)?
2. What does the name ‘Jesus’ mean? Why is that meaning important?
3. What does ‘Trinity’ mean? Discuss what Gregory Nazianzen meant when he said ‘No sooner do I think of the one than I am illumined by the splendor of the three; no sooner do I distinguish the three than I am carried back to the one. When I think of anyone of the three I think of him as the whole, and my eyes are filled, and the greater part of what I am thinking escapes me. I cannot grasp the greatness of that one so as to attribute a greater greatness to the rest. When I contemplate the three together, I see but one torch, and cannot divide or measure out the undivided light.” Why do you think Colin Buchanan includes this on his latest kids music CD?
4. Where in the opening to John’s gospel (John 1:1-18) does John make it clear that the ‘Word’ is simultaneously God’s own peer and God’s own self?
5. What does ‘incarnation’ mean?
6. Why is good news that ‘the word became flesh’? v14. How does this give us confidence in our speaking about God?
7. We cannot look directly on God, according to John 1:18. What is, at present, the closest we can come? How will this affect your reading of the gospels – Matthew, Mark, Luke and John?
8. That the God who is there became a human being demonstrates his determination that we might know him. Discuss what you are currently learning about God as you get to know the Lord Jesus Christ. Give thanks to God for making himself known to us.