



## **Incarnational Living**

The word incarnation literally means “in the flesh.”

*The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood.* (John 1:14 The Message)

*Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.”* (John 20:21 ESV)

### **Incarnational living must involve close proximity with others.**

- We cannot effectively embody Christ-like love and care to others from a distance.
- We may need to begin seeing our neighbors the way God sees them; may need to start thinking of our neighbors as the people God has sent us to.

### **Incarnational living moves beyond mere proximity to presence.**

- This involves slowing down and getting close enough to people to listen, share meals together, understand their hopes and heartaches, and to come to love them as individuals.
- The Gospels tell us – and show us – that Jesus was a friend of sinners. As busy as he was, as in demand as he was, Jesus made space in his life to hang out with people who did not believe what he believed, think as he thought, did not live as he lived.

### **Two questions and one suggestion:**

- What is one thing that I can do this week to experience greater proximity with the people that God has sent me to?
- What is one way that I can experience a greater level of presence with my neighbors?
- Pray for your neighbors, by name:
  - For open doors and divine appointments.
  - God would give opportunities to do good for them.
  - That you would listen well, and when given the opportunity, share God's story with love and gentleness.