



The Way In A Manger

Part 3: *The Way of Love.*

Big Idea

The way of love is the way forward.

Key Scriptures

- John 13:34; 14:6
 - Ephesians 5:1–2
 - Luke 2:7
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Discussion Questions

- When you think back to your childhood, what's one Christmas moment where your imagination felt "lit up"?
- As an adult, where does your imagination most easily switch off or get crowded out at this time of year? (Work, money, family stress, tiredness, something else?)
- Chris talked about how the first Christmas was completely unimaginable – no one was praying for a Galilean peasant girl to give birth to a Son who would become King.
 - What part of the Jesus story still feels the most "unimaginable" to you when you stop and think about it?

- How does it land with you that we don't have to imagine it, because we're here 2,000 years later still talking about Jesus?
- **Read Luke 2:7**
 - What strikes you most about the way Jesus entered the world (place, parents, conditions, vulnerability)?
 - If God chose to show up in that way, what might that say about the kind of "way" Jesus would grow up to show us?
- Chris invited us to "imagine a world" where people are skeptical of what Christians believe but **amazed at how well we treat one another and astounded by our no-strings-attached love for people who are nothing like us and may not even like us.**
 - When you think about Christians' reputation in our culture, what words do you think people outside the church would honestly use?
 - If Beyond, specifically, was known in Griffin as "that church that genuinely loves people well," what kind of stories do you hope people would tell about us?
- Chris said: *"Imagine a world where we were as committed to behaving correctly as we are to believing correctly."*
 - Where have you seen a gap between Christian beliefs and Christian behaviour (in the wider church, or in your own life)?
 - What helps close that gap for you – what actually moves things from theory to practice?
- In the talk, Chris named the tension that **love doesn't look like a 'winning strategy'** in the way our world plays the game.
 - Where do you feel the pressure in life to not choose the way of love because you're worried you'll lose, be taken advantage of, or look weak?
 - When you look at Jesus' life, how does his "way of love" challenge our normal ideas of strength, success, and winning?
- If you imagined your Christmas week shaped around the question "What does love require of me?", what might be different in:
 - How you speak to family,
 - How you handle stress,
 - How you respond to someone difficult?
- Without sharing anything too personal, is there one relationship or setting this Christmas where you sense Jesus nudging you toward a more loving response? What might a first small step look like?

 Challenge Question (For Takeaway):

This week, try to live the way of love on purpose, not just by accident:

1. **Choose one context** where it's hardest to live this out (family gathering, work party, online, neighbours, etc.).

2. **Before you walk into it**, pray: “Jesus, help me walk in the way of love here. What does love require of me?”
3. **Act on one concrete choice** that reflects his way of love: a word you say, an apology you offer, a moment you listen instead of defend, a kindness you give with no strings attached.