

## Sermon Discussion Questions:

- Why do you think attendance at worship services has gone down among Christians? What are the church-related reasons for this? What are the culture- and lifestyle-related reasons for this?
- What are the purposes of a church service?
- If a friend who's never attended church asked you why you went to a Sunday service, what would you say?
- Foundational to understanding the incarnation is that Jesus' divinity never overrides his humanity. In the sermon it was argued that Jesus experienced the same physical, relational, and spiritual needs that are part of human life, and this means he had to meet those needs in the same way we do (after all, Jesus can't be our example if there's no common ground). Give examples of the needs he had and the habits and practices that helped him grow. (If you're struggling with the idea the Jesus matured, reread Luke 2:52 and Hebrews 5:8.)
- In Luke 4:16, the gospel writer describes Jesus' attendance at a Sabbath synagogue service as one of Jesus' "customs". What are all the reasons for Jesus to do this? (Even if you disagree that synagogue helped Jesus in his growth, his attendance was still one of his customs, so it's worth asking why.) After you've brainstormed a little, read Ps. 22:3 and Matt. 18:20 and continue the discussion.
- All churches and worship services are imperfect (just like the synagogue services Jesus attended). What are some things you personally can do to get the most out of each of the elements of a worship service? Take them one at a time: music & singing, prayer, offering, scripture & sermon, communion. What about before and after the service?
- BONUS (for personal reflection): Think about the influences in your Christian life that have helped and that God has used to form you. How many of those would be possible without The Church and its particular expression in a local body (i.e., believers who gather together for worship, scripture, prayer, discipleship, service, evangelism, social justice, etc.)? (Here's what I'm getting at. If C. S. Lewis was influential, perhaps it's worth acknowledging that you can't separate his writings from his participation in his local Anglican church or his reliance on other Christians who have been formed by their own church experience [such as George MacDonald].)