

TEXT: Philippians 2:5-8

**OUR GOD IS A GOD WHO HAS INCONVENIENCED HIMSELF AND EXPECTS US TO BE INCONVENIENCED ALSO.**

***“If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.” – Jesus*** (Matthew 16:24; Mark 8:34; Luke 9:23)

**QUESTION:** What is our reaction to an “inconvenient God”? What are some biblical examples you can think of?

### **THREE TRUTHS TO CONSIDER:**

- 1. God will not confine Himself to your schedule.** (Luke 9:59-62)
- 2. God will not limit His expectations of you based on your abilities.** (Jeremiah 1:6-7; 2 Corinthians 12:9-10)
- 3. God’s purpose for your life will often extend beyond your life.** (Romans 5:3-5)

**Something to think about:** *So how do we know when it is really God asking and not just a distraction of our own making or created by the Enemy of our souls?*

***“I am the good shepherd; I know my own sheep, and they know me, ... My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. – Jesus*** (John 10:14, 27)

**GOD IS AN INCONVENIENT GOD, BUT HE IS NOT A SELFISH GOD. ALL THAT HE DOES ORIGINATES FROM A HEART OF INFINITE LOVE.**

### **Suggested Reading:**

Philippians 2; Luke 9; John 10  
“Experiencing God” by Henry Blackaby  
“Hearing God” by Dallas Willard

### **Suggested Small Group Topics:**

- Am I willing to be inconvenienced by God?
- How do I experience God’s voice in my life? How do I know?
- When have I allowed God to change my agenda, purpose, or direction? What were the results? Would I do it again?
- What does it mean to “deny myself” and “take up my cross”? Do I?
- Do I set my expectations based on God’s abilities or my own?
- Do I live with an “eternal perspective”? How does that change my priorities, my actions?