A CHILD

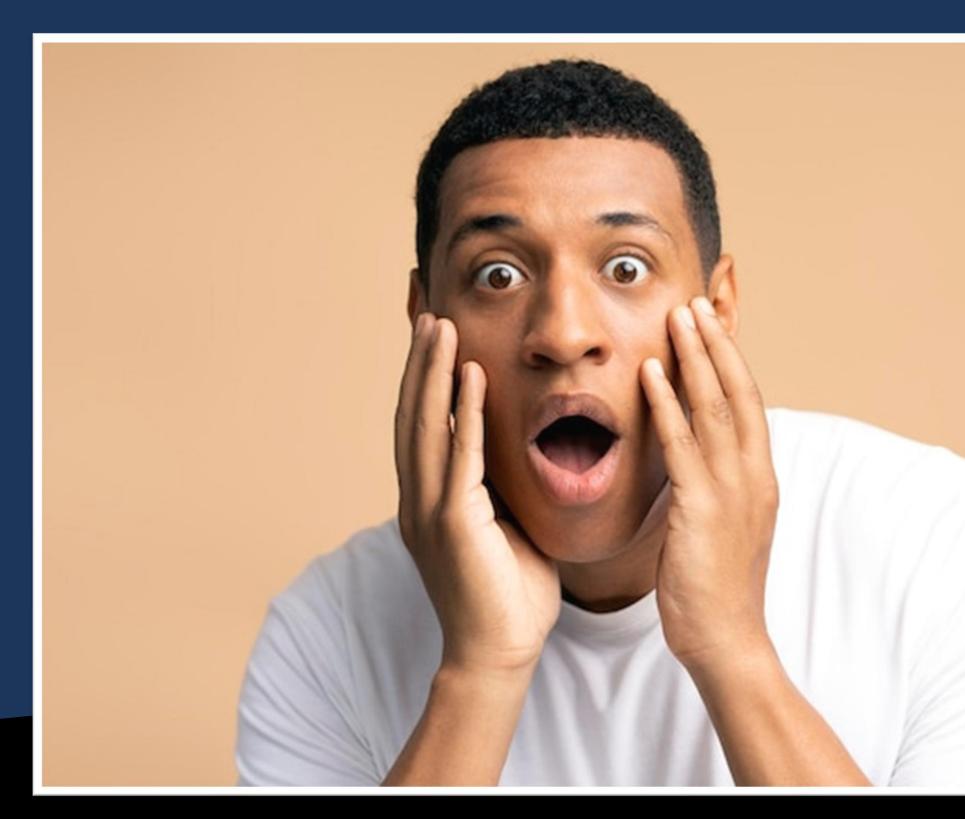
INCARNATION

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"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9:6



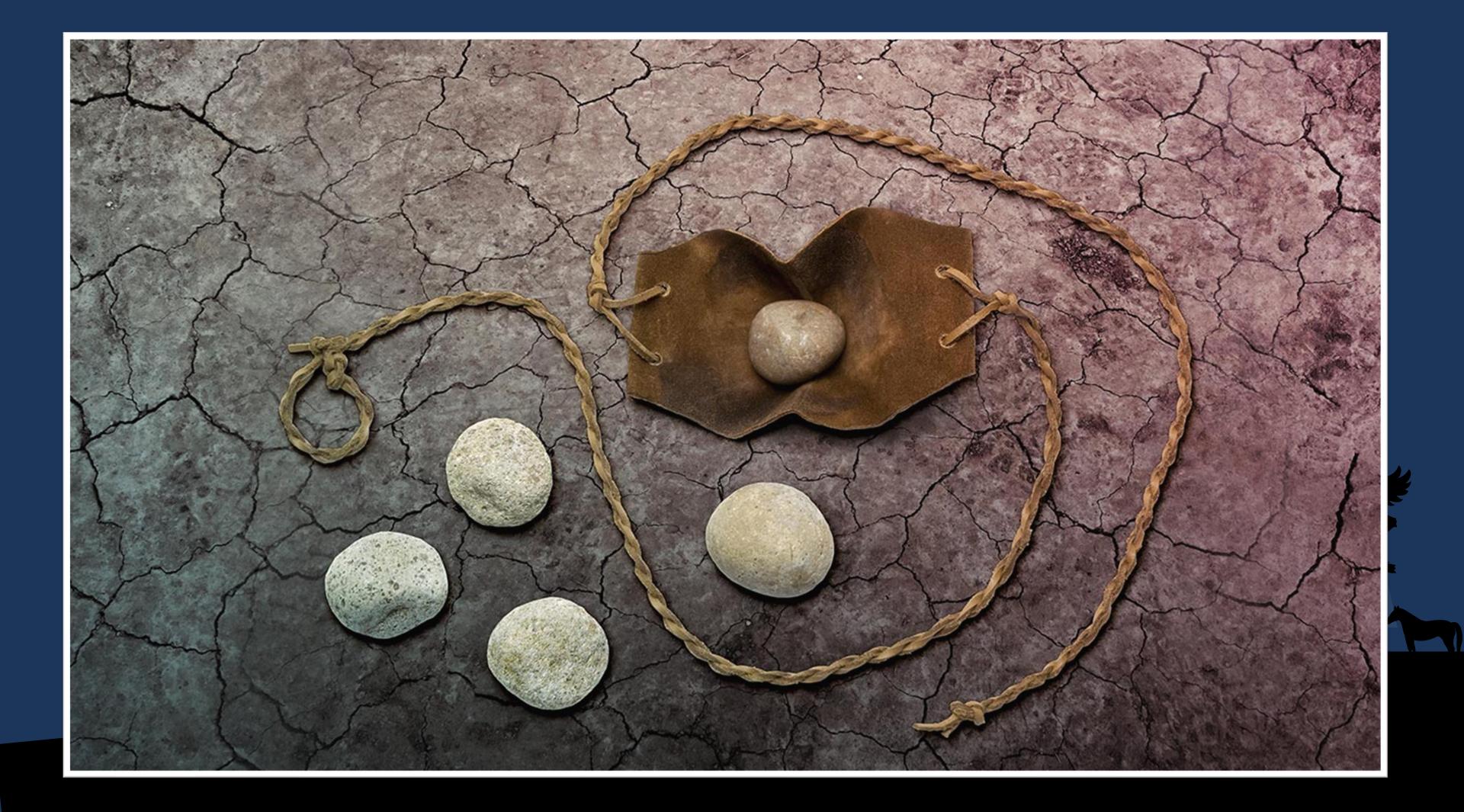
* WHO LOVES SURPRISES?

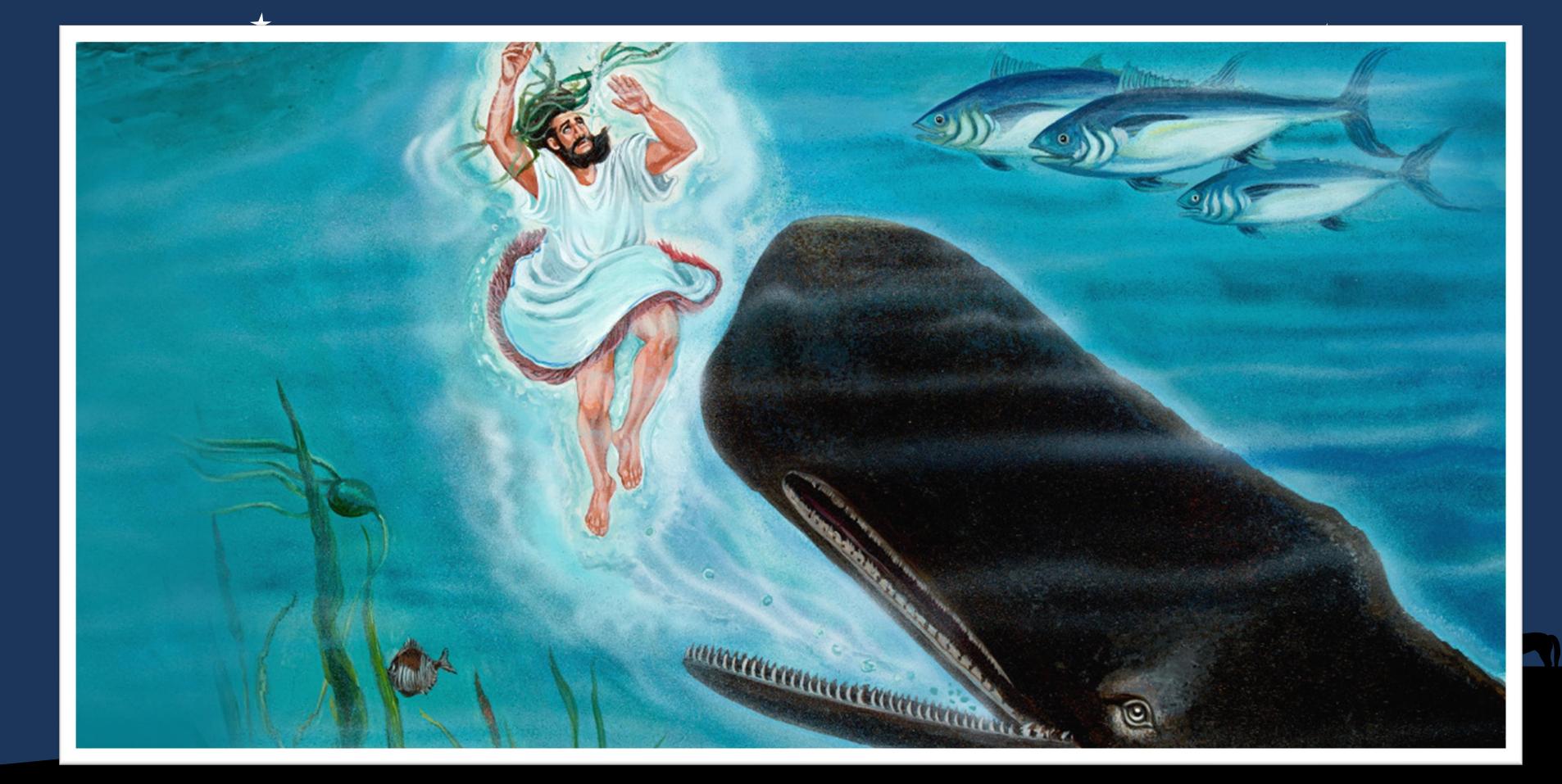




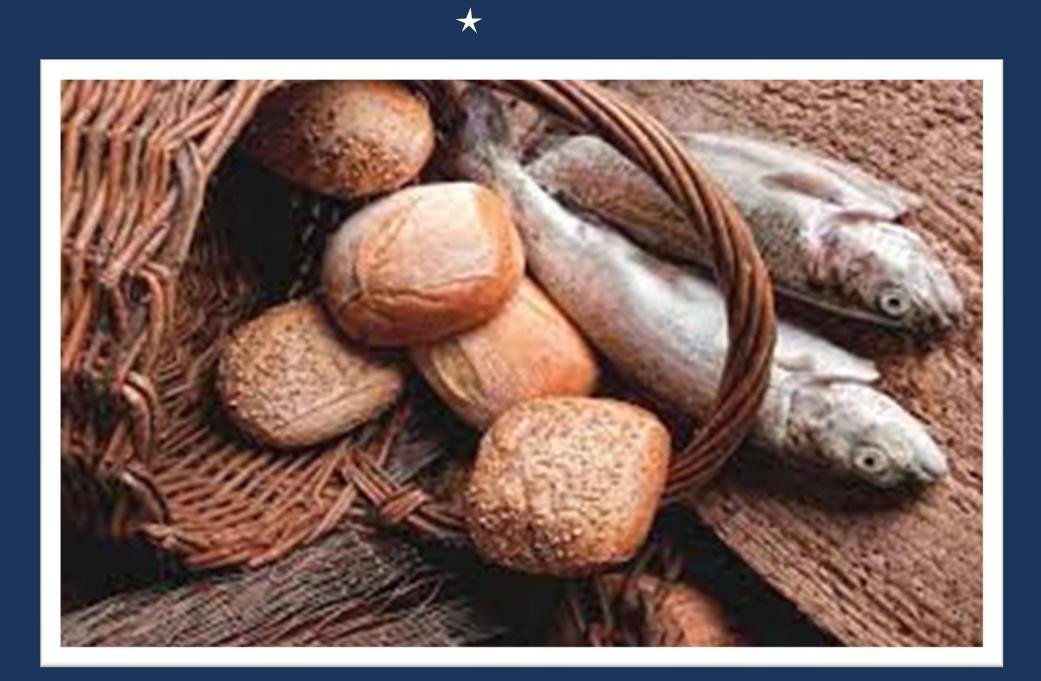
Which surprising Bible stories do these objects represent?

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God is a God of surprises – He oftens works in surprising ways:

Isaiah 55:8-9: "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord."

One of the challenges we face in a secular society is this:

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PRESENTS VS PRESENCE

INCARNATION The term "Incarnation of Christ" refers to the central Christian belief that God, in

- the person of Jesus Christ, took on human flesh.
- The word "incarnation" is derived from the Latin "incarnatio," meaning "to make into flesh".

\star THE INCARNATION MEANS WE HAVE THE MIRACLE OF \star FORGIVENESS

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What are the five m ost common values, and emotions that can drive your life? \bigstar

• Guilt

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- Resentment & anger
- Fear
- Materialism
- Need for approval

The Incarnation fulfils prophecy in the Old Testament:

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ISAIAH 9:6

FOR A CHILD IS BORN TO US, A SON IS GIVEN TO US. HE WILL BE CALLED: WONDERFUL COUNSELOR MIGHTY GOD EVERLASTING FATHER PRINCE OF PEACE



By becoming human, Jesus identifies with human experiences and is the atoning sacrifice for human sin. Through Jesus, humanity can be reconciled with God.

 Matt 1:21 "She will give birth to a son, and you are to name Him Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins."

• Rom 3:25-26

Rom 3:25-26 The Message Paraphrase Version

"God sacrificed Jesus on the altar of the world to clear that world of sin. Having faith in him sets us in the clear. God decided on this course of action in full view of the public—to set the world in the clear with himself through the sacrifice of Jesus, finally taking care of the sins he had so patiently endured. This is not only clear, but it's now—this is current history! God sets things right. He also makes it possible for us to live in his rightness."



THE INCARNATION MEANS WE HAVE THE MAJESTY IN THE MESS

Mary, did you know that your baby boy Would one day walk on water? Mary, did you know that your baby boy Would save our sons and daughters? Did you know that your baby boy Has come to make you new? Images of postcards - sanitised stable, sentimental songs -the reality was a lot more messy, just as it is in our lives!

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"a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel."the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. **And a sword will pierce your own soul too**."" **Luke 2:32-35** NIV

Paul writes about majesty in the mess- 2 Cor 4:7-11

We carry this precious Message around in the unadorned clay pots of our ordinary lives. That's to prevent anyone from confusing God's incomparable power with us..... We've been surrounded and battered by troubles, but we're not demoralized; we're not sure what to do, but we know that God knows what to do; we've been spiritually terrorized, but God hasn't left our side; we've been thrown down, but we haven't broken. What they did to Jesus, they do to us-trial and torture, mockery and murder; what Jesus did among them, he does in us-he lives!"



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Wrapping Paper

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THE INCARNATION MEANS WE HAVE THE **OPPORTUNITY TO** WORSHIP THE KING

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Matt 2:1-2, 11

"We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. That we might worship him"

Worship is not simply about singing a few songs: It's the giving of all that we are all our lives.

Romans 12:1

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"And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. **This is truly the way to worship him**"

Jesus put it very clearly and directly when He began His public ministry.

Mark 1:15

"The time promised by God has come at last!" he announced. "The Kingdom of God is near! Repent of your sins and believe the Good News!"

* CONCLUSION: * O come, O come, Emmanuel;

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