

## **How to Use Sermon Resources**

- READ AHEAD TOGETHER - MCG's should use the Devotional at the end of this resource as a reading plan for the week leading up to your meeting.
- SIT UNDER THE WORD - This resource is filled with scripture references. Read them aloud, together before you answer any questions.
- APPLY TRUTH - The goal is deep discussion and application, not necessarily to complete this resource. Don't squash a good discussion. If you get into something important along the way that's fine.

## **Small Group Discussion Guide**

**Opening Prayer** [ 2 mins ]

**Use the Overview** [ 5 mins ]

- Cover any key points for people who missed parts or all of the sermon

**Scripture Deep Dive** [ 30-40 mins ]

- Opening Question
- Read the scripture for each question then ask the question. Some have multiple scriptures.

**Close in Prayer**

- In this extended prayer time, ask others to pray as they feel led, pray in a circle, pray over one another, pray to your left, or pray for someone specific. Whatever seems best.

**Split Time (if applicable)**

- Men with men, women with women
- Share in a circle. "What's one thing you want to celebrate? What do you need prayer and accountability for?"
- After everyone shares, pray in a circle for the person to your left/right.

## **SERMON OVERVIEW**

### **"Mighty God" Isaiah 9:6, Colossians 1:13-24**

**Sermon Summary:** This Christmas sermon explores the profound truth of Jesus as "Mighty God" from Isaiah 9:6, examined through the lens of Colossians 1:13-24. Pastor Matt challenges listeners not to let the familiarity of Christmas traditions dull the transformative power of the gospel message. The sermon emphasizes three dimensions of Christ's might: His power in creation (as the active agent through whom all things were made), His power in salvation (rescuing us from darkness and reconciling us to God through His blood), and His power in mission (calling believers to live as servants of the gospel).

#### **Key Points:**

- The promises from Isaiah's prophecy: God is with us, God is in control, and God has acted to deliver His people through Jesus Christ
- Jesus is mighty in creation - He is the image of the invisible God.
- Jesus is mighty in salvation - He forcefully rescued us.
- Jesus is mighty in mission - Paul's response to understanding Christ's work was to become a servant of the gospel
- Every aspect of life falls under Christ's sovereign claim and should be lived in service to Him

#### **Scripture Reference:**

- Isaiah 9:6 (primary theme verse)
- Colossians 1:13-24 (main teaching passage)

#### **Stories:**

- Personal anecdote about visiting a college town that smelled bad and becoming desensitized to the odor over time, illustrating how familiarity can dull our response to important truths
- The "Miracle on Ice" 1980 Olympic hockey game used to distinguish between improbable events and true miracles
- Illustration of the complex process that occurs in milliseconds when reading text aloud, demonstrating God's creative power in human design
- Extended parable of a king whose son ran away, was raised by peasants, became a criminal, and was sentenced to execution - the king took his place in the jail cell and died in his son's place, illustrating Christ's substitutionary sacrifice and prompting the question of how we respond to such love

## Scripture Deep Dive

### Opening Question:

Reflect on a tradition or aspect of Christmas that has become so familiar it no longer amazes you. How can we ensure the message of Jesus' birth remains impactful in our lives?

### Jesus is Mighty in Creation

**Colossians 1:15-16** - What does it mean for Jesus to be the "firstborn over all creation," and how does this title establish His authority over creation? Consider John 1:1-3 and Hebrews 1:2-3 for additional context.

**Colossians 1:17** - How does understanding that Jesus is actively holding all things together influence your perception of His involvement in your daily life? Reflect on Job 12:10 and Psalm 104:29-30.

### Jesus is Mighty in Salvation

**Colossians 1:13-14** - What are the implications of being rescued from the dominion of darkness and transferred into the kingdom of His Son for your identity and daily walk of faith? Refer to 1 Peter 2:9-10 for deeper understanding.

**Colossians 1:19-20** - Discuss how reconciliation through Christ's blood impacts your understanding of peace with God. How does Romans 5:1-2 enhance this understanding?

### Jesus is Mighty in Mission

**Colossians 1:21-23** - How does recognizing your past alienation and present reconciliation through Christ's death affect your commitment to remain steadfast in faith? Reflect on 2 Corinthians 5:17-20 in your response.

**Colossians 1:23** - What does it mean for the gospel to be proclaimed in all creation, and how might this knowledge shape your role as a servant of the gospel? Consider Matthew 28:18-20 and how it aligns with your personal mission.

## **5 Day Devotional**

### **Day 1: Colossians 1:15-17, John 1:3**

**Devotional:** These verses highlight Jesus as the image of the invisible God and the Creator of all things. Recognizing Jesus' active role in creation reminds us that everything has purpose and order under His dominion. He not only created all but also continues to sustain everything, reminding us that His power and presence are continuously active in our lives.

**Reflection Question:** How does knowing that Jesus holds all things together affect your trust in Him during uncertain times?

### **Day 2: Colossians 1:13-14, 1 Peter 2:9**

**Devotional:** Being rescued from the dominion of darkness and transferred into the kingdom of Jesus means a complete transformation of identity. We are redeemed and forgiven, called to live as citizens of a new kingdom where Christ reigns. This transformation encourages us to live differently, shining light in dark places and reflecting the values of His kingdom.

**Prayer Suggestion:** Pray for gratitude and strength to live as a distinct citizen of God's kingdom, embracing your new identity in Christ.

### **Day 3: Colossians 1:18-20, Hebrews 1:3**

**Devotional:** Jesus embodies the fullness of God, through whom reconciliation to God is achieved by the peace made through his sacrifice. This passage emphasizes the depth of God's plan to reconcile us to Himself, highlighting the completeness and sufficiency of Christ's work on the cross. It invites us to rest in the peace and reconciliation available through Jesus.

**Reflection Question:** How does understanding Jesus as the fullness of God impact your approach to worship and prayer?

### **Day 4: Colossians 1:21-23, 2 Corinthians 5:18-19**

**Devotional:** Our past alienation is contrasted with our present reconciliation, which calls us to remain steadfast in faith. By reconciling us through His death, Jesus gives us the mission to live as His servants, proclaiming the gospel through our lives. Our newfound position compels us to align our actions and priorities with His mission.

**Prayer Suggestion:** Ask God to reveal areas in your life that need realignment with His mission, committing to live in a way that reflects your reconciliation.

### **Day 5: Colossians 1:24-29, Matthew 28:18-20**

**Devotional:** With the responsibility of the gospel comes the call to labor and strive in His strength. Paul's dedication to his calling as a servant of the gospel is a reminder of our own invitation to participate in God's mission. Embracing this role transforms our everyday actions into opportunities to share Christ's hope with the world.

**Reflection Question:** What steps can you take this week to more actively serve as an ambassador of Christ, sharing His gospel in your community?