

4 WEEKS

HIS NAME SHALL BE



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WONDERFUL COUNSELOR

*"For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting-Father, Prince of Peace."
Isaiah 9:6*

WEEK 1

SMALL GROUP STUDY

Kicking it off:

Who tends to be your "go to" when you need good advice and why?

Big Idea:

Jesus came to bring healing for spiritual sickness in our life.

Key Scriptures:

Luke 5:30-31

"But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law who belonged to their sect complained to his disciples, 'Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?'"

Jesus answered them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

Mark 9:7

"...a voice came from the cloud:

"This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!"

John 10:27

"My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me."

Discussion:

1. Our Christmas teaching series centers upon the prophecy of Isaiah regarding the names of the coming Messiah- names which embody His character and purpose. Of these four names (Isaiah 9:6), which is most meaningful for you and why?
2. Read Luke 5:30-31. Who did Jesus come for?
3. In what area of your life are you "sick" and in need of Jesus' healing?" (Be honest.) What is your deepest struggle, fear, hurt, or addiction?
4. Read Mark 9:7 and John 10:27. In Sunday's message,

the point was made about listening to Jesús, the Wonderful Counselor. God spoke this, and Jesus did as well. If we belong to Him, we listen to His voice. In what practices do you currently engage that you may listen to Jesus?

5. Discuss in your group ways you may open yourself up to listen to Him more.
6. Share how Jesus has spoken to you in the past. What did you learn or experience as you followed His advice?
7. So many people don't do what doctors or counselors suggest. Is there anything currently that Jesus the Wonderful Counselor may be leading you to do? Be specific.

Wrapping It Up:

As a group, pray for one another and hold one another accountable to follow through on His direction.

Prayer Focus:

Pray for the Hope Center in this busy season, that the people that are served through the Food Pantry and through the World Vision warehouse distribution would recognize the provision as coming from our

gracious God.

Memory Verse:

“Jesus answered them, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.”
Luke 5:31

MIGHTY GOD

*"For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called
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Isaiah 9:6*

WEEK 2

SMALL GROUP STUDY

Kicking it off:

If you could have any superpower, what would it be?

Big Idea:

Jesus' power is at work in, for and through you.

Key Scriptures:

Jeremiah 32:17

"Ah, Sovereign LORD, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for you."

Philippians 2:13

"For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him."

Isaiah 40:29-31

"He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men

stumble and fall; but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength."

2 Corinthians 12:9

"My grace is sufficient for you for my power is made perfect in weakness."

Acts 1:8

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

2 Corinthians 2:4-5

"My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power."

Discussion:

1. There's nothing more powerless and weak than

a newborn baby. They are utterly dependent upon others for their sustenance. Yet, that is how God chose to deliver His Son into the world—in weakness. The Son, who was present at Creation and spoke the world into existence by the mighty power of His name, came in weakness. Discuss the dichotomy of that truth.

2. Read Jeremiah 32:17. What does this passage convey about God's mighty power?
3. Read Philippians 2:13. What does this passage reveal about God's power IN you?
4. Read Isaiah 40:29-31 and 2 Corinthians 12:9. Share how you have seen God's power at work in your life in the midst of your greatest weakness.
5. How might these passages encourage you when you are at your weakest?
6. In Acts 1:8, what is the purpose of the Holy Spirit's power being poured out on the lives of believers?
7. What does that reveal about the way God intends to work through you?
8. Read 2 Corinthians 2:4-5. Have you ever tried to convince someone to follow Christ? Share what

happened.

9. What is erroneous about that approach based on Paul's words to the church in Corinth?

Wrapping It Up:

Discuss how you might grow in dependence upon God's power rather than trying to muster your own.

Prayer Focus:

Pray for our Celebrate Recovery ministry and for the continued sobriety of all who are walking together toward that end.

Memory Verse:

"My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power."

2 Corinthians 2:4-5

EVERLASTING FATHER

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Isaiah 9:6*

WEEK 3

SMALL GROUP STUDY

Kicking it off:

What plans do you have for celebrating Christmas?

Big Idea:

God is our perfect and compassionate Father.

Key Scriptures:

Psalm 103:8

"The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love."

Matthew 11:28-29

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."

Jeremiah 29:11

"For I know the plans I have for

you", says the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Hebrews 13:5

"Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."

Discussion:

1. Holidays are a great time for gathering with family and celebrating together. But sometimes, they bring pain in the midst of dysfunctional family dynamics or unmet expectations. Discuss what difficulties you might be facing this Christmas season.
2. Describe what most characterizes your earthly father.
3. In what ways may you have projected the image of your earthly father onto your Everlasting Father?
4. Read all the passages above. These passages describe the nature of our Everlasting

Father. How is He different than your earthly father?

5. How does seeing God more clearly affect your relationship with Him?

Wrapping It Up:

If you have any unresolved hurts from your relationship (or lack of it) with your earthly father, pray together as a group to let go of those hurts and allow yourself to be embraced by your heavenly Father.

Prayer Focus:

Pray for our Christmas services at the Orpheum this week- that many lives might be transformed by God's Good News of great joy.

Memory Verse:

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.”

Matthew 11:28-29

PRINCE OF PEACE

*"For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."
Isaiah 9:6*

WEEK 4

SMALL GROUP STUDY

Kicking it off:

What most tends to throw your mind into chaos?

Big Idea:

Jesus is the peace who comforts you and saves you.

Key Scriptures:

Luke 2:10-14

"Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests."

Romans 5:1

"Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."

John 14:27

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."

Philippians 4:6-7

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

Ephesians 2:13-14a

"But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through

the blood of Christ. For (Christ) himself is our peace..."

Discussion:

1. Read Luke 2:10-14.
According to this passage, to whom is God's peace given?
2. How does one become the recipient of God's favor? (Romans 5:1)
3. Read John 14:27. How would you describe your normal state?
 - Very peaceful?
 - Mostly peaceful?
 - Occasionally stressed?
 - Off the-charts high strung and anxious?Discuss why.
4. Read Philippians 4:6-7.
Describe a time when God gave you an unexplainable peace.
5. Read Ephesians 2:13-14a.
Jesus is the Sar Salom. He gives his peace and He can remove for his purposes. Can you describe a time when Jesus used the absence of peace to get your attention?
6. Discuss how you might more fully experience the peace that Jesus came to bring during what has now become a chaotic season.

Wrapping It Up:

Pray together to have moments of transforming peace during this Christmas week.

Prayer Focus:

Pray for all the children who will be receiving Christmas boxes this week through Operation Christmas Child- that they may experience the love of Jesus and hear His transforming message of love through these gifts.

Memory Verse:

“Glory to
God in the
highest, and
on earth
peace to
men on
whom his
favor rests.”
Luke 2:14



CHRISTMAS

*At The
Orpheum*

December 23

5:00 PM

7:00 PM

December 24

3:00 PM

5:00 PM

In a crowded, busy holiday season one of the last emotions we typically feel is peace. But that's exactly the emotion Jesus came to bring on that very first Christmas. He was not just a Wonderful Counselor, or a Mighty God, or an Everlasting Father. He was also the Prince of Peace. Join us this Christmas as we slow down, calm our hectic minds, and celebrate the Prince who came to bring peace not just on earth, but in our hearts, as well.

You're Invited to Christmas at the Orpheum:

December 23 - 5:00 PM & 7:00 PM

December 24 - 3:00 PM & 5:00 PM

Reserve Free Tickets Online:

<https://sunnybrookchurch.org/christmas-at-sunnybrook>

Top 10 Tips for Leading a Small Group

1. Establish a welcoming, accepting, and safe environment.
 - Take time to prepare.
 - Make sure to give a warm enthusiastic greeting to each person.
 - Verbally communicate the environment that you hope to create.
 - Ephesians 4:1-3
2. On the opening night of your group you need to have some intentional discussions centered around these questions:
 - What is the purpose of our group?
 - What is the vision for our group?
 - What are your expectations?
 - What do you hope to gain from this group experience?
 - What are some things we value as a group?
 - What are some healthy guidelines we need to have in place?Review and sign a group agreement.
3. Be authentic. Spend time sharing your life stories in order to get to know each other on a deeper level.
4. Find a good balance between:
 - Truth and grace/Bible study and life
 - Encouraging and challenging one another
 - Giving and receiving feedback from each other
5. Ask good questions to stimulate good discussion. Use open ended questions and follow up questions.
6. Hang out together, do things socially, eat together and have fun together!
7. Develop a missional lifestyle, find a service project to do together in the community.
8. Raise up new leadership by rotating facilitation of the group.
9. Share the responsibilities in order to increase individual commitment and ownership of the group.
10. Pray for your group and for each other!

Find ways to celebrate what God is doing in your group! Who else could you invite to join you in order that their life may be impacted by what God is doing in your group?

Group Agreement

OUR PURPOSE

To transform our spiritual lives by cultivating our spiritual health in a healthy small group community. In addition, we: _____

OUR VALUES

Group Attendance: To give priority to the group meeting. We will call or email if we will be late or absent.

Safe Environment: To help create a safe place where people can be heard and feel loved. (Please, no quick answers, snap judgments, or simple fixes.)

Respect Differences: To be gentle and gracious to people with different spiritual maturity, personal opinions, temperaments, or imperfections. We are all works in progress.

Confidentiality: To keep anything that is shared strictly confidential and within the group, and to avoid sharing improper information about those outside the group.

Encouragement for Growth: To be not just takers but givers of life. We want to spiritually multiply our life by serving others with our God-given gifts.

Welcome for Newcomers: To keep an open chair and share Jesus' dream of finding a shepherd for every sheep.

Shared Ownership: To remember that every member is a minister and to ensure that each attender will share a small team role or responsibility over time.

Rotating Hosts/Leaders and Homes: To encourage different people to host the group in their homes, and to rotate the responsibility of facilitating each meeting.

OUR EXPECTATIONS

- Refreshments/mealtimes _____
- Childcare _____
- When we will meet (day of week) _____
- Where we will meet (place) _____
- We will begin at (time) _____ and end at _____
- We will do our best to have some or all of us attend a worship service together.
- Our primary worship service time will be _____
- Date of this agreement _____
- Date we will review this agreement again _____
- Who (other than the leader) will review this agreement at the end of this study _____



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