



Connect Discussion Guide

12.05.21 Message | Tyler Myers | Titus 1:1-4

Key Scriptures:

“But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.

You have multiplied the nation; have increased its joy;

they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil.

For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder,

the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult

and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire.

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;

and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end,

on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it

with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore.

The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.”

- Isaiah 9:1-7

“Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the sake of the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth, which accords with godliness, in hope of eternal life, which God, who never lies, promised before the ages began and at the proper time manifested in his word through the preaching with which I have been entrusted by the command of God our Savior; To Titus, my true child in a common faith: Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior.”

- Titus 1:1-4

Message Highlights:

- The true, lasting joy of the season will come when we embrace a life changing relationship with the messenger who changes everything.
- The presence of Christmas changes everything, but it requires messengers to deliver the gift of hope.
- Titus lived out his role as a messenger by modeling the daily living out of his relationship with Jesus and leading out in Jesus-like responses.
- Most times basic faith brings beautiful and redemptive light amidst the darkness.

Conversation Starter:

How do you and your family/friends celebrate this Advent season? Share ideas with your group, whether it be creative Advent calendars, devotionals or something else.

Discuss the Message:

1. What relationships has the grace of God been a model for the way you partner?
2. What would it look like for you to give your first fruits to delivering the gift of hope this Christmas season rather than allowing the hustle and bustle of the holidays to direct your steps?
3. What have you experienced that God's presence has shown up and transformed?
4. Titus led not by modeling radical opposition or radical assimilation, but instead by modeling what it looks like to daily live out one's relationship with God. Discuss the practical hardships that come with leading in such a countercultural way. Next, discuss the fruit that is borne from leading in such a countercultural way.
5. Where are you called to be a messenger of the presence of Christmas this Advent season? How might you lead out by modeling radical presence-- the daily living out of your relationship with Jesus and leading out in Jesus-like responses?

Pray:

Father in heaven, your grace abounds and we are humbled to be messengers of your grace and truth this Christmas season. May our first fruits be dedicated to proclaiming you -- our Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Help us to continue rethinking this Christmas season as we strip away distractions and other things that aren't from you so that our sole focus and affections are for you alone. May we be the grace and peace that was delivered to us through the ultimate messenger. In your son Jesus' name we pray, Amen.