



JESUS IS...



CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH
2020

Introduction to *Jesus Is*

Names are important, and in biblical times even more so – they had meaning!

700 years before Jesus, God tells the prophet Isaiah about the coming Messiah. He even gives a list of descriptive names in Isaiah 9:6.

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.

As we approach Christmas, the celebration of the birth of Jesus, the Messiah, let's look closer at these four names – names that have meaning and tell us who Jesus is.

Introduction To The 4G Guide

GATHER – GOD – GROUP – GIVE

It's important that we *GATHER* each week as a church family. Still, God has so much more for us! He wants us to take what He's teaching and apply it to our lives. This is the heart of the 4G Guides. These guides are written to encourage you in your personal *GOD TIME* and in your small *GROUPS*. They are designed to help you understand what God is teaching and apply it to your daily life. Understanding and application allows you to then take what God is teaching and *GIVE* it to others.

Unless otherwise indicated, all scripture references are from the *English Standard Version* (ESV Text Edition: 2016) Bible.



USING THE 4G GUIDE

Each week is divided into four sections:



Gear Up

Each week starts with the Gear Up section. This section introduces the weekly topic and expounds on Scripture. Also provided are some practical steps to putting the subject matter into practice.



God Time

Personal time with God is vital to the Christian walk. Five daily devotionals are provided for each week's topic. This is your one-on-one time in a guided devotional format. At the conclusion, we encourage you to pray, seeking direction for the day and the rest of the week.



Group Time

We learn from one another! In small groups we meet to dig deeper into the weekly material. This booklet contains lesson outlines for discipleship discussion. For more information on available groups and forming a group, go to our Groups webpage:

cbcfamily.net/groups.



Family Group Time

Family worship glorifies God. Each week we have simple devotionals just for Families. Plan ahead though, as many of these lessons include fun experiments or video shorts to discuss.



Gear Up: Wonderful Counselor

Names are important. But in biblical times, names were even more important because they had meaning associated with them. A name might tell about a person's character or have some symbolism attached to it. Through the Old Testament prophet Isaiah, God gave a list of descriptive names that told the people about the promised Messiah who would one day come. These names tell us who Jesus is.

Read Isaiah 9:6.

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.

The Counselor Is Here to Heal

The woman at the well in John 4 is a great illustration of the concept that Jesus, the Wonderful Counselor came to heal. You see, when Jesus asked her for a drink, he knew she was a broken sinner in need of spiritual healing. This woman had been married several times and at that time, was living with a man whom she wasn't married to. None of that took Jesus by surprise; Jesus knew all about her.

The beautiful thing in this story is that Jesus offered her a drink of Living Water (the Holy Spirit/salvation). She believed in Him, and her life was changed. Because she shared her testimony, many other people in her village came to faith in Christ, too. All because the Counselor offered her the spiritual healing we call "salvation."

Be Honest

Jesus offers us all a drink of His Living Water. He came so that anyone who places faith in Him can have everlasting life. But we must be honest and recognize our sickness: sin.

We see this in Luke 5:30-32, when Jesus says that he came to call "the sick," that is, sinners.

³⁰But the Pharisees and their scribes were complaining to his disciples, "Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?" ³¹Jesus replied to them, "It is not those who are healthy who need a doctor, but those who are sick. ³²I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

It is when we recognize that we are sick sinners that we see our need for Him and the spiritual healing He offers. The good news is that this healing is for anyone! When we cast our burden on Him, we can trust Him to sustain us (Psalm 55:22).

Listen to His Voice

Counselors counsel: that's what they do. We must listen to the voice of our Wonderful Counselor. God speaks to us through the Bible, the Holy Spirit, and His sovereign hand in our lives. The closer we follow, the better we hear.

Read John 10:27

My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.

Do What He Tells You

Listening is just one part of the equation. True, biblical listening implies obedience. We must do what He tells us! He knows our hearts... and He knows our hang-ups. This is why He instructed the man in Mark 10:21-22 to "go and sell all that [he has]... and come, follow me." It isn't always easy to obey, but it is always worth it!

Our Counselor is wonderful! We can trust Him to heal us from the penalty and power of sin. We must turn to Him, be honest about our need for Him, listen to what He says, and then do it. He is a Wonderful Counselor, and we can always trust in Him!

God Time: Day 1 – Names Are Important



Names are important! They can carry dignity or disgrace, evoke certain emotions, and can even have positive or negative connotations associated with them. In Biblical times, names were even more meaningful and symbolic than they usually are today.



Read Isaiah 9:6.
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.



Circle the words “child” and “son.”

Look carefully at the four things this child and son will be called. Underline them. This verse is talking about Jesus, our Savior. Spend time in prayer praising Him for being worthy of those four titles.

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

God Time: Day 2 – Wonderful Counselor



Re-read Isaiah 9:6 from Day 1.

Put a box around the words *Wonderful Counselor*.

The word “wonderful” is from the Hebrew word *pele* and means “beyond understanding — too wonderful for words.” The word “counselor” is from the Hebrew word *yowes* that means “to advise, consult, and guide.”

Jesus is our Wonderful Counselor! Combine the two definitions above to complete the following sentence in your own words:



Jesus is my _____.

Read Psalm 32:8.



I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you.



Where do you most need God’s guidance right now? Write it down and seek the Lord’s counsel.

God Time: Day 3 – Be Honest with the Counselor



The Wonderful Counselor, Jesus, had a purpose in coming to earth. He came so that any who believe in Him will not be eternally separated from God. Instead, we can live with Him forever.



Read Luke 5:30-32.
³⁰*And the Pharisees and their scribes grumbled at his disciples, saying, “Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?”* ³¹*And Jesus answered them, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick.”* ³²*I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance.”*

Let’s work backwards on this passage.



In verse 32, put an **X** over who Jesus did “not come to call” and circle who Jesus says He did come to call.

Since everyone is a sinner, this means He came for everyone who will acknowledge their sin and repent.

In verse 31, Jesus uses a metaphor to describe sinners and says they need a physician. Underline what He calls them.

Yes, Jesus calls sinners “sick” and therefore they need a doctor (someone who can cure their sickness). Friends, because we all sin and fall short of His glory, He is talking about all of us. We need to agree with Jesus; be honest with Him and say, “Jesus, I need you!”



Read Psalm 55:22.
Cast your burden on the LORD, and he will sustain you; he will never permit the righteous to be moved.



Dealing with sin is uncomfortable. What is your “sickness?”



Be honest with Jesus and let His light guide you from sinful darkness to a place of wellness. Write a prayer of repentance now!

Remember, He will heal and sustain you!

God Time: Day 4 – Listen to the Wonderful Counselor



In Mark chapter nine, Jesus takes three of His disciples (Peter, James, and John) to a mountain. While they are there, something incredible happens! Jesus is transfigured (changed) right in front of them. The three disciples see His glory, and His glory is God’s glory. They, and we, are seeing the deity (Godness) of Jesus Christ.



Read Mark 9:7.
And a cloud overshadowed them, and a voice came out of the cloud, “This is my beloved Son; listen to him.”



The voice that came out of the cloud was God the Father’s voice. Circle what God says about Jesus in the verse above.

Those are powerful and important words, aren’t they? God only wants us to follow Him, and yet, here He is telling the disciples to listen to Jesus. Why? Because listening to Jesus is listening to God.

The question for us as followers and disciples of Christ becomes, “How do I listen and hear Him?” The Bible says that God speaks to us in various ways. He speaks through the Bible, the Holy Spirit (in us and through other Believers), during prayer, and by His sovereignty in our circumstances. But through all these ways, we hear Him best when we are close to Him and listening for Him.



Read Jesus’ words in John 10:27.
My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.



In this verse, what will the sheep do when they hear Jesus’ voice?

Since God is speaking to us, it is our job to listen. For the Wonderful Counselor to guide us, we must listen and follow. The question is, are we listening to God?



What hinders you from listening?

What will you do to eliminate these hindrances?

God Time: Day 5 – Do What the Counselor Says (Obey)



Read Mark 10:17.
And as he [Jesus] was setting out on his journey, a man ran up and knelt before him and asked him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?”



What question did the man ask Jesus in verse 17?

Jesus responds to the man, stating that he needed to obey the Law. When the man replied that he had done this since he was young, Jesus gave additional instructions.



Read Mark 10:21-22
²¹*And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, “You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.”*
²²*Disheartened by the saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.*



What additional instructions did Jesus give the young man?



What was the young man’s response?

The man was disheartened because, quite frankly, he didn’t want to obey. Jesus isn’t telling everyone that we need to sell all that we have to follow Him. Instead, Jesus reveals that He knows our hearts and our hang-ups. He wants to guide us to something better!

What is the Wonderful Counselor guiding you to do? Pray and ask Him. Is He wanting you to serve others? Forgive someone? Reconcile a relationship? Take a step (or leap) of faith? Find an accountability partner?



What first step of obedience will you take today?

Make sure to do it.

Group Time

◀◀ LOOK BACK:



1. Each participant shares one praise and one prayer request. (Commit these to prayer for the coming week.)

2. ENCOURAGEMENT 1-on-1 (See last page for directions)

| | | |
|-------|-------|-------|
| Y / N | Y / N | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | |

3. **Point:** *Jesus is our Wonderful Counselor. Listen to Him and do what He says.*

Review last week's lesson.
What do you hope to gain from this series?

▶▶ LOOK UP:
Question: How are sin and sickness similar?

Recap: Names have meaning. Jesus is our Wonderful Counselor. We need to be honest regarding our sin/sickness and listen to what He tells us to do, and then do it. We cannot ignore what He tells us just because we don't like the counsel.

LOOK IN: Discussion Questions

- Webster defines Counselor as:
 - 1 : a person who gives advice or counseling (Counsel: a policy or plan of action related to PURPOSE).
 - 2 : LAWYER specifically : one that gives advice in law and manages cases for clients in court.
- Look at the definition #1 of Counselor. What are examples of Jesus' wonderful counsel to us related to His purpose?
- Look at definition #2. Read Luke 5:27-32. How is Jesus our Counselor in court? Who is the Judge? What is the crime?
- Read Mark 10:20-22. Like the young ruler, what are examples of "riches" (sicknesses/sins) people hang on to that keep them from fully following Jesus' wonderful counsel?

▶▶▶ LOOK FORWARD: Application

Point: *Jesus is our Wonderful Counselor. Listen to Him and do what He says.*

- BE HONEST: What "riches" (sicknesses/sins) do you need to "sell" (repent of and give up) that are keeping you from fully following Jesus?

 - LISTEN TO HIS VOICE: Are you listening to Jesus? What will you do to listen better?

 - DO WHAT HE TELLS YOU: What is Jesus telling you to do?

- What is your plan to do it? Do you need help?

Pray for one another to trust and seek God. Be ready to share with your group what God does with your obedience.



Family Time

Main Idea: Wonderful Counselor = Guide beyond our understanding



Key Verse: Isaiah 9:6

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.



Activity: Have everyone look up online what their name means and share with the family. Does the name have any family history? If so, share that information.

Now look up the different names of God in the Bible. Be specific on your search: “Names of God in the Bible.”



What names did you find and what were their meanings?

| Name | Meaning |
|------|---------|
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |

Ask:

- What do the different names of God tell us about God?
- What do the meanings tell us about God’s character?

Encourage:

- What is your favorite of God’s name and meaning?

- When we are going through different times in our lives, we can call out to God using different names.

Family Game Time:

We are going to play a game today to see how well we can all listen to the leader’s voice.

1. Send each of your children as far away from you as you can but keep them in the same room as you.
2. Whisper a phrase and have the kids repeat back to you what they heard.
3. If they were not able to hear you, have them take two steps closer to you and repeat the phrase. (Keep doing this until all kids have figured out the phrase.)

The goal of this game is to remember that the closer we get to God the easier it will be for us to hear what He is trying to say to us. Jesus is our Wonderful Counselor. He will guide us beyond what we will understand, but we must be ready to listen.



Gear Up: Mighty God

In this life, we face so many obstacles. There is so much in life that is messy, hard, and horrible. But nothing is too big for our God. Though we face obstacles and struggles, His might will sustain us.

Read Isaiah 9:6.

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.

Jesus is the Mighty God. This is a huge statement! We often refer to Jesus as the Son of God, but we must remember that He is also God the Son. He is one person of the Trinity (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit). Jesus is *fully God* and fully man, yet without sin, equal to the Father and Spirit in glory and might, though distinct from the Father and Spirit in function. He made all things that were made (Colossians 1:16-17) and *“nothing is too difficult for [Him].”* (Jeremiah 32:17).

He Is Omni-

“Omni-” is a Latin prefix that means “all.” We can use these “omni-” words to describe some of God’s attributes that are unique to Him:

- Omniscient, meaning He has no limitations to His knowledge.
- Omnipresent, meaning that He is everywhere at the same time.
- Omnipotent, meaning that He has no limits to His ability, power, and might.

God *alone* has these attributes. But, since God is Father, Son, and Spirit, all three persons of the Trinity possess these attributes. Humankind, of course, does not. Since we have limitations, these three attributes are very reassuring to us! Our God knows all about our struggles, is with all of us at once, and is powerful enough to

do mighty things in our lives and others’-- all while upholding the universe! It’s incredible.

The Mighty God Is at Work... In You

Not only is He working on your heart and growing you spiritually, but He is giving you the desire and power to do the things that please Him in the first place. When He gives the desire, you must step out and obey.

He tells us about this in Philippians 2:13.

For it is God who is working in you both to will and to work according to his good purpose.

The Mighty God Is at Work... For You

God gives us the power to endure all the difficulties we face. We draw strength from Him. The Bible tells us that His *“power is perfected in [our] weakness”* (2 Corinthians 12:9-10) and that *“He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength”* (see Isaiah 40:29-31). Yes, God is at work for you—on your behalf to have spiritual success.

The Mighty God Is at Work... Through You

God longs for His children to glorify Him and shine His light to a dark world. He wants us to share the gospel, that is *“to be [His] witnesses”* here, there, and *“to the ends of the earth.”* (Acts 1:8)

Join God’s Mission

What will you do? God will give you the might to make it through life with a testimony that points to Him. Join God’s mission and be a witness; He will give you the power to do it.

God Time: Day 1 – The Mighty God



Read Isaiah 9:6.
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.



In the passage above, circle the words “a child is born,” “a son is given,” and “Mighty God.”

Like we discovered last week, this child and son is Jesus. Notice what this verse tells us:

Jesus = Mighty God



Read Jeremiah 32:17-18.
¹⁷*Ah, Lord GOD! It is you who have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and your outstretched arm! Nothing is too hard for you. ¹⁸You show steadfast love to thousands, but you repay the guilt of fathers to their children after them, O great and mighty God, whose name is the LORD of hosts...*



In verse 17 above, what does Jeremiah say is too hard for the Lord?

In verse 18, circle the words “O great and mighty God.” Who does Jeremiah say the mighty God’s name is?

The LORD of hosts is the mighty God. Jesus is the Mighty God. How can this be? We found out last week (Day 4): Jesus is fully God in human flesh. And because Jesus is our mighty God, nothing is too hard for Him!



Are you facing an obstacle? Memorize Jeremiah 32:17 (above) and pray it back to God.



Who do you know that needs to be reminded that nothing is too hard for God? What will you do to help and encourage them today?

God Time: Day 2 – The Mighty God is an “Omni-” God



The Latin prefix *omni-* means “all.” It tells us that something is all-encompassing, lacking nothing, and is completely complete. We have three English words that describe God using this prefix:

1. God is omniscient (He knows everything).
2. God is omnipresent (He is everywhere at once).
3. God is omnipotent (He is all-powerful).



Read Psalm 139:2, 7-8, and 13.
²*You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar. ⁷Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence? ⁸If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there! ¹³For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother’s womb!*



In these verses, circle how God is omniscient. Put a box around how He is omnipresent. Underline how He is omnipotent.



List three ways God has revealed His mightiness to you.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Share this as a testimony with someone today!

God Time: Day 3 – The Mighty God Works in You



Read Philippians 2:13.
For it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.



Circle the two things that God “works in you” to do.



The NLT says it this way: *For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him.*

It pleases God that we become like Jesus. God, through His Holy Spirit, works in us to give us the desire and power to become more Christlike. (This is called sanctification.)



God promises to work in us. Thank Him for working in you and ask Him to give you the desire and power to become more Christlike.

God Time: Day 4 – The Mighty God Works for You



Read Isaiah 40:29-31.
²⁹ *He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength. ³⁰Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; ³¹but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.*

According to the passage above, who does God “give power to?”



For whom does He increase strength?

We all know this truth: life isn’t easy. But there is good news. God is good! He is the Wonderful Counselor and the Mighty God. He will share His might and strength with us. He can use even our very worst circumstances to do His best work. Yes, the Lord is mighty enough to remove our problems! But sometimes, instead, He gives us the strength to endure them to accomplish His will.



Read Paul’s words in 2 Corinthians 12:9-10
⁹*But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. ¹⁰For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.*

What is God asking you to do in response to this passage?

When, where, and with whom will you do it?



God gave Paul the power to endure so that other people could see God’s power at work in him. If God is asking you to endure something, let His power shine through you!

Day 5 – The Mighty God Works Through You

After Jesus’ resurrection, He spoke these words to the disciples:



Read Acts 1:8.
But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth.

Those words were instructions for them, but they are also for us.

Circle what this verse says we’ll receive and when we’ll get it.



Jesus says, “...and you will be my...” what? _____

Underline the four places mentioned. These four places were to be taken literally by the disciples but can be taken metaphorically for us. A simple way for us to understand this is to think of it this way, “in the community you’re in now, in your state, your bordering countries, and to the whole earth.”

As a follower of Jesus, no matter where you are, you can have the power of the Mighty God in you! God’s power enables us all to live for His mission and share Jesus. He wants to work through us to bring others to Him.



Read Paul’s words in 1 Corinthians 2:3-5. (NLT)
³*I came to you in weakness—timid and trembling. ⁴And my message and my preaching were very plain. Rather than using clever and persuasive speeches, I relied only on the power of the Holy Spirit. ⁵I did this so you would trust not in human wisdom but in the power of God.*



Circle what Paul says was “plain” (ordinary).

What did he rely on? Why?



Join God’s mission today; partner with Him to witness to others. He will give you the might, power, and strength to do it.

Group Time

◀◀◀ **LOOK BACK:**



3. Each participant shares one praise and one prayer request. (Commit these to prayer for the coming week.)

4. ENCOURAGEMENT 1-on-1 (See last page for directions)

| | | |
|-------|-------|-------|
| Y / N | Y / N | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | |

4. Point: *Jesus is our Wonderful Counselor. Listen to Him and do what He says.*



Review last week's lesson.

What is Jesus asking you to do and how is it going?



LOOK UP:

Question: Have you seen God's power in action? Tell of a time when you saw God's power.

Recap: Jesus' description as The Mighty God takes on three main "Omni's". Each of these "Omni's" are "all-encompassing."

- Omniscient: All-knowing – unbound by information
- Omnipresent: All-pervading – unbound by space and time
- Omnipotent: All-powerful – unbound by ability

In His mightiness, He is unbound by what, when, where, and how. He is at work in you, for you, and through you in order to complete His mission for "all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth." (1 Timothy 2:3-6).

LOOK IN: Discussion Questions

- What are practical examples of each of the three "Omni's?"
- Read Acts 1:8.
 - How would you define power in this verse?
 - What is the purpose of this power?
 - Does this verse apply today? How does that work?



LOOK FORWARD: Application

Point: *If you want to see God's power, join God's mission.*

- In your own words, what is God's mission through Jesus? (hint: read Luke 19:10)

- In your own words, what is God's mission through you?

- What power(s) do you need from God to join His mission? Do you need skills, better time management, boldness, accountability, etc.? Make a list and be prepared to share this with the group:

- What can you do this week to join God's mission?

Pray for one another to trust and seek God. Be ready to share with your group what God does with your obedience.



Family Time

Main Idea: Jesus is Our Mighty God

Key Verse: Jeremiah 32:17



'Ah, Lord God! It is you who have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and by your outstretched arm! Nothing is too hard for you.'

Set it Up: Have the kids try to lift different sizes of weighted objects in the house. Which ones were easier to pick up?



Watch: Week Two Video Search.

Do a quick internet video search of “Strongman Competition.” And watch a couple of the shorts.

Ask:



- What was your favorite part of the video?
- Did you know that each of those men have a limit to their strength? Do you have a limit to your strength?



Encourage:

- God has no limits to His strength.
- The Bible tells us that God is omniscient, omnipresent, and omnipotent. This means that God knows all, is everywhere at the same time, and He can do anything He wants to within His nature.
- Talk about how this is different from us as humans.
- How can God use His power and might to work through us?



Family Activity:

Often, we think that we must go far away to be used by Jesus. As a family, give some time this season to a local ministry. Serve that ministry and the families that it helps.

Listed here are a few places your family can serve others in our community:

- Feed the Need
- Primera Food Bank
- Bastrop Pregnancy Resource Center
- County Animal Shelter
- BISD Paths Project Closet
- Or any other ministry that will impact others and demonstrate how God can give you the strength to be His hands, feet, and voice.



Gear Up: Everlasting Father

Seven hundred years before Christ was born, Isaiah prophesied about Him. Isaiah referred to Him as “Wonderful Counselor” “Mighty God” and the title we look at now, “Everlasting Father.” How could he say that Jesus was everlasting? And why did he call Him Father?

Let’s read Isaiah 9:6.

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.

Jesus is everlasting. John 1:1 tells us that Jesus, the Word, was in the beginning with God and He was God. Even before His birth, He existed. All things that were made, were made through Him—even time; Jesus “fathered” time.

No matter how old you are, you need a Father who cares about you. No matter what your experience has been with your earthly father, all humanity needs the compassion, care, and constancy of a perfect Heavenly Father. (He will never do you wrong!)

The wording used in Isaiah 9:6 emphasizes the fact that Jesus will “father” forever. Though Jesus is *not* God the Father, but is God the Son, He “fathered” things like time, eternity, creation, and Believers. He will always “father” us—meaning, He will always protect, guide, and care for us. His love never stops.

Jesus Is Compassionate

Psalm 103:8 teaches us that God is compassionate.

The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in faithful love.

Jesus reiterates this in Matthew 11:28-30 when He tells us to come to Him when we are weak and weary and that His “yoke is easy and [His] burden is light.”

Jesus is compassionate, like a loving father should be. He wants to rescue us, and He forgives us when we sin. Yes, we mess up, but He is slow to anger and patient. He knows our weaknesses, our needs, and understands our struggles.

Jesus Is Caring

Jesus cares about us. Sometimes, we accuse Him of not caring because we pray and get a “no” or “not now” answer. Or we expect xyz to happen in our lives, and it doesn’t. We might cry out, “Jesus, don’t you care?” The answer is yes, He does!

Jeremiah 29:11 shows us the caring nature of God:

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.

God wants what is truly best for our eternal good. Jesus is God the Son, so we can be assured that Jesus cares.

Jesus Is Always There

Hebrews 13:5 tells us that Jesus “*will never leave you nor forsake you.*” He is always there, *always!* That means that we need to turn to Him. While it’s easy to hope in the temporary things of this world (money, position, health, etc.), Jesus is far better. He will never leave.

Will You Trust Him Today?

Jesus came to earth as an expression of God’s fatherly love for humanity. He wants us for eternity, in eternity, with Him. He is compassionate, caring and always there. Trust Him today!

God Time: Day 1 – Everlasting...



Read Isaiah 9:6.
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.



In the passage above, circle the words “a child is born,” “a son is given,” and “Everlasting.”

This passage was written by the prophet Isaiah about 700 years before Jesus was born. Though He hadn’t been born, He did exist. He exists now, and He always will. Why? Because Jesus, though fully human, is also fully God. This means He (Jesus) is “everlasting.”



Jesus came to earth, died, rose again, and is still alive. It sounds like an Easter message, but it is also a Christmas one. Without His coming, there would be no crucifixion and resurrection. Spend time praising God that Jesus is everlasting!

God Time: Day 2 – The Everlasting Father



Re-read Isaiah 9:6 from yesterday (above). Put a box around the phrase “Everlasting Father.”

Sometimes, we look at a passage based on our own experiences. Here is a challenge for you: Don’t look at God through your earthly father but look at Him through the lens of the Bible. In other words, let the Bible tell you who God is.

The word “Father” in Isaiah 9:6 means a loving, good protector, and a good and perfect king whose kingship will never end. The promised Son would care for His people perfectly and eternally.



List how God has shown you that He is the good *Everlasting Father*?



Who will you share this with this week?

God Time: Day 3 – The Everlasting Father Is Compassionate



Read Psalm 103:8.
The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.



What four things does this verse tell us about God’s character?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

These four qualities describe a compassionate and loving father, don’t they? First, He is “*merciful*,” showing great “compassion to the miserable” (Easton’s Bible Dictionary). He is “*gracious*,” showing favor toward mankind, giving us more than we could ever deserve. He is “*slow to anger*” and abounds in “*steadfast love*.”

The Hebrew word for “*steadfast love*” is *chesed*; defined as favor (toward mankind), lovingkindness, loyalty, and mercy. *Chesed* is a love that involves action and great depth. It’s a love that rescues and forgives. That’s the love of a compassionate, Everlasting Father!



Knowing this, rewrite Psalm 103:8 (above) in your own words:



Have you ever done anything that made you think God would love you less? Or more? Why did you feel this way?

Regardless of what you have done or what you do, His love is constant and steadfast. You can’t make Him love you any more or any less than He already does. He is the compassionate, Everlasting Father who “*abounds in steadfast love!*” **Have you accepted His steadfast love?**

God Time: Day 4 – The Everlasting Father Is Caring



Read Jeremiah 29:11.
For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.



What plans does the Lord have for His people according to this verse?

This verse was to a specific people group in a specific time in history, but it shows God’s heart toward mankind. He wants what is best for us! We must understand, however, that He is sovereign, and He sees what is truly best for our eternal good.

It can be easy to be discontent when what we think is best doesn't line up with what God allows. When that happens, we can miss God’s best because we’re distracted by what we want; we’re looking in the wrong direction.



Is God currently allowing something in your life that you don’t like or want?

Pray about it and ask Him to remind you that He cares about you.



Read Romans 8:28.
And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.



What will work together for good, according to this verse?

For whom?

We must keep this verse in context and remember that even suffering, hardships, and persecution can work for our eternal good. Remember, God is compassionate, trustworthy, and loving. He cares deeply about us! Praise Him for this today.

God Time: Day 5 – The Everlasting Father Is Always There



Read Hebrews 13:5.
Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he [God] has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”

Yesterday, we read this: “...we can miss God’s best because we’re distracted by what we want; we’re looking in the wrong direction.”



Keep that statement in mind and reread the verse above. What promise did God make to mankind?

The verse above starts with words of wisdom about money and contentment. God knows that when we are focused on money and are not content with what we have, we are looking in the wrong direction. We think that money and physical contentment can keep us safe and satisfied. But that is wrong thinking.



List the kinds of earthly things our culture turns to and trusts in for satisfaction and protection.

What might you be tempted to trust in, apart from Jesus?

Trusting in earthly things will let us down because they are only temporary. We have an Everlasting Father who will never let us down! He is eternal, and He is always there for us. We can safely rely on Him and should always turn to Him first.

Do you turn to God first? If not, what will you do differently so that you will turn to Him first in the future?



Remember: God is always there, and only He can truly satisfy. Memorize Matthew 28:20b: *And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.*

Group Time

◀◀ LOOK BACK:

1. Each participant shares one praise and one prayer request. (Commit these to prayer for the coming week.)

2. ENCOURAGEMENT 1-on-1 (See last page for directions)

| | | |
|-------|-------|-------|
| Y / N | Y / N | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | |

3. **Point:** *If you want to see God’s power, join God’s mission.*

Review last week’s lesson.
 What power(s) do you need from God to join His mission?

▶▶ LOOK UP:

Question: Tell of a time you were let down by someone in authority you deeply respected. Did this affect your trust in other authority figures?

Recap: Jesus is our Everlasting Father and that makes our relationship with Him very personal. We need to make sure we don’t look at Him through the relationship lens of an earthly father, but through the lens of the Bible.

While our earthly fathers may not have been perfect, our Everlasting Father is. He is compassionate, caring and will always be there for us. All we need to do is trust Him.

LOOK IN: Discussion Questions

- How does an earthly father relationship affect the understanding of an Everlasting Father relationship?
- Compare and contrast a Heavenly Father relationship with an earthly father relationship.
- How is God compassionate?
- How has God been a caring Father to you?
- Give examples of how God has “been there” for you!

▶▶ LOOK FORWARD: Application

Point: *Jesus is eternal and will never let you down; turn to Him first.*

- What characteristics do you immediately think of when you hear the word “Father?”

- How do these characteristics compare with Psalm 103:8?

- On a scale of 1-10, how would you rate your trust in God to be the Everlasting Father as described in Psalm 103:8?

(Least) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 (Most)

- What can you do this week to increase your trust in your Heavenly Father?

Pray for one another to trust and seek God. Be ready to share with your group what God does with your obedience.



Family Time

Main Idea: Jesus is Our Everlasting Father

Key Verse: Isaiah 9:6



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.

Set it Up: When we hear the words Everlasting Father it can bring up many different emotions. Most of those emotions are based on how we feel about our earthly father. Watch this video and see how Linus talks about our Heavenly Father.



Watch This Video:

It's hard to believe that our Everlasting Father would come down to this earth as a baby, but He did. Jesus came down to let each of us know how much He loves us.



Ask:

- What does Charlie Brown find out about Christmas?



Discuss the Points:

- Jesus came to earth to show us how much He loves each of us. This is the true love of a father.
- Spend time as a family thanking God that He sent Jesus to be our Everlasting Father.



Family Activity:



| WORD LIST | | | | |
|--------------|--------------|--------|----------|---------|
| ANGELS | GABRIEL | MANGER | NATIVITY | STABLE |
| BETHLEHEM | JESUS CHRIST | MARY | PROPHECY | STAR |
| FRANKINCENSE | JOSEPH | MYRRH | SHEPHERD | WISEMEN |



Gear Up: Prince of Peace

We all need peace. So many people in our world today deal with anxiety. It's a growing problem. Life moves and changes so quickly that it's a recipe for depression, insecurity, and overwhelm. But Jesus!

Let's read Isaiah 9:6

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.

Peace on Earth

When Jesus was born, an angel declared His birth to the shepherds in the fields. The angel said, *"Don't be afraid, for look, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people..."* Other angels joined in praise saying, *"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to people he favors!"* (Luke 2:10, 14)

From the first moments of Jesus' birth, peace was promised. Jesus is the Prince of Peace— a kind of peace that reaches to the core of our spirits. Though our lives may have unrest at times, we can certainly have His peace inside us. "The more Jesus has of you, the more peace He will allow you to have."

This peace is available to the entire world. Who Jesus is and what He has done is good news of great joy for all humankind! Why? Because, through belief in Him, Jesus gives peace with God and with others.

He Is the Peace Who Comforts You

Peace and comfort are connected. They both indicate *a state of rest*. God's peace guards our hearts and minds. Because of this, we can take comfort in the fact that we are safe. God is always watching over us, protecting us and guiding us.

Philippians 4:5-7 says,

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! ⁵Let your graciousness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Don't worry about anything, but in everything, through prayer and petition with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

What's "out there" will come into our hearts and minds. But, if our spirit is guarded by God's peace, through prayer and petition with thanksgiving, then we will have the tranquility and rest He promises.

He Is the Peace Who Saves You

Look at Romans 5:1.

Therefore, since we have been justified [saved] by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Through faith in Jesus, we are saved. This salvation is more than just a rescue from trouble and unrest (although it can be that, too). This kind of salvation is spiritual; it reconciles us in peace with God and those who are also united to Him through faith.

Are You Ready for Peace?

Yes, peace joins us with God and others. Maybe you are at a point in your life where you realize that peace is missing. Anyone who places faith in Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins can be assured of salvation. We can all stand firm in the fact that Jesus has restored peace between God and the one who believes in Him. Embrace the Prince of Peace today!

WEEK 4 – JESUS IS... THE PRINCE OF PEACE

God Time: Day 1 – Prince of Peace



Read Isaiah 9:6.
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.



In the passage above, circle the words “a child is born,” “a son is given,” and “Prince of Peace.”



Jesus is the Prince of Peace! Because Jesus is available to every person on earth, this means that peace is available to everyone, too. What peace has Jesus brought to you? Write or say a prayer of thanks.

God Time: Day 2 – Peace on Earth



Read Ephesians 2:14. (NLT)
For Christ himself has brought peace to us. He united Jews and Gentiles into one people when, in his own body on the cross, he broke down the wall of hostility that separated us.



Circle what Christ brought and who He united. How did He do this?

Jesus came so that we can have peace with God and others through our unity in Christ. The peace that Jesus brings is a rest, tranquility, wholeness, and completeness, knowing that in Him everything is how it should be. This doesn't guarantee peace will be in every circumstance around us, but that we can have His peace within us.

The more Jesus has of us, the more peace He will allow us to have.

Who do you need to make peace with today?

God Time: Day 3 – He Is the Peace Who Comforts You



Read Philippians 4:5-7.
⁵The Lord is at hand; ⁶do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

In verse 6, underline what are we supposed to do instead of being anxious?



What will happen as a result? (See verse 7)

The word “guard” in verse 7 literally means to guard. But figuratively it means to protect, hem in, and keep (as in a military garrison). Read verse 7 again and substitute those words for guard. See if you get a clearer picture of what God's peace is doing in your heart and mind.

This is the type of peace that comforts us because it keeps us safe, hemmed in, and protected. God is the God of all comfort!



Read 2 Corinthians 1:3-4.
³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, ⁴who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.



Circle every use of the word “comfort” in this passage. God offers us comfort and peace. Our job is to go to Him and trust Him.



List three ways you can share His peace and comfort with others. (Ex: a call or text, share in the checkout line, tell a neighbor, etc.)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

God Time: Day 4 – He is the Peace Who Saves You



Read Romans 5:1.
Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

On Day 2 of this week, we talked about how Jesus came to bring us peace. The verse above says we have peace with God “since” (i.e., because of) what?



One definition of justification that is quite easy to understand is this: “it’s just-as-if I never sinned.” That is what this verse is talking about. When we have faith in Jesus Christ as our Savior, we are justified. God looks at us and sees Jesus in our hearts and it’s “just-as-if” we never sinned. We are saved and forgiven!

This type of salvation is not the same type of salvation that is simply a rescue from trouble. God may rescue us from troubles at times, but the peace that Jesus brings us by salvation is a peace with God that is much deeper than a simple rescue. The peace and salvation God offers is given in spite of suffering, persecution, financial crisis, failing health, and other tragedies. It is inside us and cannot be taken nor shaken.



Read Romans 3:10-12, 23
¹⁰As it is written: “None is righteous, no, not one; ¹¹no one understands; no one seeks for God. ¹²All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.” ²³for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

The verses above show a picture of what life is like apart from God. The knowledge that we’ve failed and fallen short leaves us feeling restless and wanting salvation. It is only through Him that our spirits have peace.



- List three benefits of having Jesus as your spiritual peace.
1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____

God Time: Day 5 – Are You Ready for Peace?



Read Luke 2:14.
Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!

Underline what this verse says will be “on earth?”



Who will experience this? (Note: God “is pleased” with those who do His will.)

The Hebrew word for peace in the Old Testament is *shalom*. *Shalom* carries the idea of completeness, soundness, welfare, prosperity, tranquility, quiet, contentment, and friendship – both with man and with God. The Greek word for “peace” in the New Testament is *eiréné*. (Used here and in Ephesians 2:14 on Week 4 Day 2). It reflects the full Hebrew meaning but has added beauty; it is derived from the verb *eiro* which means “to join.” Peace joins us to God and to each other.



Would you like to have peace with God and have assurance that you are joined with Him for all eternity? If so, please don’t wait another day. It is as easy as inviting Jesus into your heart right now. If you have questions or need help doing this, contact any of our Deacons or church staff.

Do you need peace in a relationship? Do you need to forgive someone or ask to be forgiven? Take a step (or several steps) toward peace with them today. Make a plan and act on it.



Meditate on the words below and spend time with God alone in prayer. Praise Him that Jesus came to bring peace on earth!



“THERE HAD BEEN NO PEACE ON EARTH SINCE ADAM FELL. BUT NOW, WHEN THE NEWBORN KING APPEARED, THE SWADDLING BAND WITH WHICH HE WAS WRAPPED UP WAS THE WHITE FLAG OF PEACE.” Charles Spurgeon



Family Time

Main Idea: Jesus is Our Prince of Peace

Key Verse: Philippians 4:6-7



Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Set it Up: What is something that brings you peace? It could be your favorite blanket, a place you like to go, or even a friend. We all have different things we think of when we think of something bringing us peace. In our passage it says that Jesus will bring us peace and that we are to bring those things that don't bring us peace to him in prayer. Stop right now and pray as a family about anything that is not bringing you or your family peace.



Ask:

- Look up definitions of *peace*.
- Peace is more than a feeling or thought. What is peace?

Jesus came to this earth so that we could know what peace is through Him. Let's focus on Jesus as our peace-giver and not on other things or people.



Family Activity: Have everyone take their own hands and feel the temperature of them. Now rub your hands together for 30 seconds. Feel how your hands have warmed up. Now do it again for a full minute. How hot have your hands gotten?

Living in peace with one another is not always easy to do. Read Romans 12:16-18. List at least five or six really hard things that God tells us to do in Romans 12:16-18.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

Read 1 Peter 3:8-11. List at least four new things this passage commands us to do.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Write down the names of your family members and then write two things you can say to them that would make their day better.

The 3-Step "1-on-1 Encouragement" Process

Let us hold on to the confession of our hope without wavering, since he who promised is faithful. And let us consider one another in order to provoke love and good works, not neglecting to gather together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging each other, and all the more as you see the day approaching.

Hebrews 10:23-25

1. Partner-up: Partners should be of the same gender. If there is an odd number three is okay but work swiftly.
2. Partners ask each other these five questions:

| | | |
|---|---|--|
|  | 1) Did you spend specific personal time in the BIBLE <u>each day</u> this past week? | These are "Yes" or "No" questions. |
|  | 2) Did you spend specific time in PRAYER <u>each day</u> this past week – not just for meals? | Any hesitations or "Well..." responses are circled "No." |
|  | 3) Did you do something specific to show Godly LOVE to someone this past week? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If so, the partner briefly shares the encounter(s) with their partner and, on the provided line, writes the name(s) of the person(s) they showed love to, shared the gospel with, or disciplined. • If not, leave the line blank. |
|  | 4) Did you intentionally share the GOSPEL with anyone this past week? | |
|  | 5) Did you DISCIPLE anyone this past week? (Ex: Sharing with others from any of the Gathering, God, Group, or Family Times) | |

3. Each partner prays for the other: No matter how or what the partner has done over the past week, this is an intentional prayer of **encouragement** for the coming week!