



A Worship Discussion Guide for Individuals, Groups & Families for the week of December 15, 2024

Read the Bible passage aloud in your group meeting. This is a worship discussion guide, and our reflections and applications are grounded in Scripture. You do not need to work through the whole guide. Decide which points would be most helpful for your meeting, and use them as a starting point for your time together.

Warm Up

- What about Jesus is most precious to you in this season of your life? Why?

Isaiah 9:6 For to Us a Child is Born

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 New Testament, the Gospel writers understand that Isaiah's prophecy about the child-Messiah is ultimately fulfilled in the birth of Jesus Christ. Read [Isaiah 7:14](#) to learn more about this prophetic theme:

"Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel."

In Sunday's worship service, we read [Matthew 1:18-23](#) to explore this connection:

"Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, 'Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: 'Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel' (which means, God with us)."

God's promised Messiah has come at last, and Isaiah's prophecy helps us see extraordinary attributes of Jesus and His ministry. Choose one or two of the statements below to guide your discussion, prayer, and worship of Jesus Christ, the Lord.

- *"To us a child is born"* highlights the incarnation of Jesus Christ; God was made Man, born like us. Why is it important to know that Jesus is fully human?
- *"A son is given"* highlights the grace of God in providing a Savior. How is God's graciously showing you your need of the Savior these days?
- *"The government shall be upon his shoulder"* highlights the sovereign authority of the Messiah. What is one way you see that you are out of control, and you are grateful for the strong shoulder of Jesus?
- *"Wonderful Counselor"* highlights the supernatural wisdom God grants to those who trust Him. What wisdom do you need from the Lord? What are you having trouble seeing and understanding?
- *"Mighty God"* highlights the conquering strength of the Messiah. What battle is too great for you that you need to entrust to the Lord? In what way do you need Jesus to subdue you?
- *"Everlasting Father"* highlights the eternal Fatherhood of God. God reveals Himself as Father: what does He want to communicate to you in doing so?
- *"Prince of Peace"* highlights both the personal integrity of Mediator, perfectly at one with God and Man. And the peace-making benefits He administers to His people. How do you lack peace? How does your family, our community, our world lack peace? Pray together in response to God's Word.

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Questions? Contact Pastor Kevin Greene, kevin@wepc.org