

GOD'S MAGNIFICENT WORD



Our purpose is to journey into Scripture, God's unified story leading to Jesus, who invites us into a new way of life and continues God's story in us through the transforming work of the Holy Spirit.

LONG AWAITED ONE



Name:

Series Guide 8

Use this guide for deeper discipleship
as we journey together through

GOD'S MAGNIFICENT WORD

LONG-AWAITED: WEEK 1



MEMORY VERSE: ISAIAH 9:6

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.



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Did you ever have a situation in your life in which you needed God to step in and be the ultimate judge? What qualities of the Savior as described in Is. 11 give you confidence in his ability to be the ultimate judge?

In Isaiah 10, the Lord is depicted as a sort of lumberjack of justice, felling trees (nations). What hope does ch. 11 offer regarding the nation of Israel?

Jesse was King David's father. What has God promised will come from David's lineage and why is this fruit-bearing "Branch" so important?

The New Testament interprets this Branch as the Messiah. How do we see the qualities of the Messiah in verses 2-5 fulfilled in Jesus Christ? What stories, teachings, or sayings from Jesus come to mind? What qualities of Jesus have made a difference in your life or have been particularly meaningful to you?

How might the promise of restoration in Isaiah 11:10-16 offer hope in today's world?

In what ways does the vision of God's kingdom in Isaiah 11 inspire you to action?

ISAIAH 53:1-9

SERMON NOTES

FAMILY CORNER

MEMORY VERSE FOR YOUNG KIDS: "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given (Isaiah 9:6a)

Immanuel means "God with Us": the best Christmas present of all! This wonderful gift is with us all year long! Soak up the season, delight in the beauty of Christmas, and carry Jesus into the new year with your family, every day, all year long! No matter what life brings, we can have joy, hope, and peace because God is with us!

LONG-AWAITED: WEEK 5



MEMORY VERSE: ISAIAH 9:6

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REFLECTION QUESTIONS

This is the last of the four “Servant songs” (see 42:1-7, 49:1-13, 50:4-9). What are the main themes of these songs? What do they tell us about God’s purposes?

The New Testament freely applies this song to Jesus (Matthew 27:38, 57-60; John 1:29; Acts 8:32-34; 1 Peter 2:22-23). From this song, how would you explain to someone else the meaning of Jesus’s death and resurrection? How does it bring reassurance to you of God’s forgiveness and love?

As our Wounded Healer, Jesus has taken our pain and borne our suffering for our salvation. How is that saving work of Jesus anticipated here in Isaiah 53:1-9? How is it also anticipated in Luke 2:34-35?

This song is another example of the thoroughness of the details included in the prophecies of the Old Testament. How does it strengthen your faith to realize these details, written 700 years before Jesus was born and yet perfectly depicting what he did on the cross? Does this passage help you to understand that God’s plan of salvation was in place from the very beginning?

SERMON NOTES

FAMILY CORNER

MEMORY VERSE FOR YOUNG KIDS: “For to us a child is born,
 to us a son is given (Isaiah 9:6a)

Through Isaiah the prophet, God promised His children a king from the line of Jesse, BUT they would have to wait a long time for this King. Today begins advent, a waiting period for us as we prepare our hearts and minds to celebrate the birth of Jesus. As a family, how will you spend your time waiting? Be intentional, focusing your hearts on the coming King! Connect your kids in devotion each day through the family activities in our church-wide devotional, The Long Awaited One, or your favorite advent devotional for your family!

Scan the QR code for this week’s lesson video:



LONG-AWAITED: WEEK 2



MEMORY VERSE: ISAIAH 9:6

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REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Isaiah 40 calls the people to prepare the way for the Lord. Preparing is different than waiting. God sent John the Baptist as a messenger just ahead of the Messiah (see Matthew 3:1-3). How is our calling as followers of Christ similar to that of John the Baptist? What kind of things can we do to prepare for God to encounter us in our lives? In what ways can you bring the “good news” to your own “Zion” (community)?

Psalm 23 also depicts God as a shepherd to his people. According to Psalm 23, how does God actively lead and guide us as our shepherd?

In Luke 15:1-7, the Parable of the Lost Sheep, Jesus depicts God as leaving the ninety-nine to save the one lost sheep. How does the identity of being one of God’s sheep resonate with you? How does it challenge you?

In John 10, Jesus says, “I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.” How does this chapter help us understand who Jesus is claiming to be?

Isaiah 40 opens with the call for comfort. How does the imagery of God as a shepherd in Isaiah 40:11 provide comfort in your current life situations? In what ways can you extend this comfort to others around you?

SERMON NOTES

LONG-AWAITED: WEEK 4



MEMORY VERSE: ISAIAH 9:6

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REFLECTION QUESTIONS

When you think of the Nativity, what images come to mind? How can the birth of Jesus, a baby born 2000 years ago and nearly 6000 miles away, be good news for you today? How is the Bethlehem stable a sign of God's power and love?

Read Matthew 1:18-25. What do you learn about faith from Joseph and Mary here? What reason does Matthew give as to why Jesus was born (v. 21)? How does it strengthen your faith to see that God perfectly fulfilled his plans?

Isaiah says, "The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned" (9:2). How is walking in darkness a metaphor for the struggles and difficulties that can come our way? Can you think of a time when you faced "deep darkness"? What was that like?

How has Jesus shattered some of the "yokes that burden you" (9:4)? What is one yoke that you desire to have him shatter now?

How can we reflect the light of Jesus in the world today (see Matthew 5:14-16)? How might God be calling you to let his light shine among your family, co-workers, neighbors, strangers, or friends?

ISAIAH 40:1-11

SERMON NOTES

FAMILY CORNER

MEMORY VERSE FOR YOUNG KIDS: "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given (Isaiah 9:6a)

God is our comforter, and He never leaves us. Unlike the things of this world, His Word is true and everlasting. As a family, read through the following verses in God's Word that describe Him as a shepherd: Psalm 23, Ezekiel 34: 11-12, 16, Matthew 2:6, Luke 15:1-7... can you find more? How are you asking the Lord to be your only Shepherd in this life?

Scan the QR code for this week's lesson video:



LONG-AWAITED: WEEK 3



MEMORY VERSE: ISAIAH 9:6

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REFLECTION QUESTIONS

How does Isaiah 42 portray the character and mission of the Servant of the Lord? How do these characteristics connect to Jesus? In what ways does Jesus bring “delight” to his Father?

Verse 3 says that the Servant will not break the already bruised and will not extinguish the already fainting. How can those words be a comfort for those who are suffering? How does this shape your understanding of God’s justice on earth?

In what ways can we be ambassadors of Christ in our communities who carry his light? How does the Holy Spirit help us identify, uplift, and empathetically support those around us who are sitting in darkness? What difference can awareness and a listening ear make for someone who cannot see beyond their hopelessness?

In Philippians 2, the writer calls us to have “the mind of Christ” who “took on the very nature of a servant.” This teaching echoes the words of Jesus who said, “Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all.” What does it look like, practically, to imitate Christ as a servant? In what ways can we emulate Jesus’s approach of nurturing the weak and empowering others in our daily lives?

SERMON NOTES

FAMILY CORNER

MEMORY VERSE FOR YOUNG KIDS: “For to us a child is born, to us a son is given (Isaiah 9:6a)

Isaiah prophesied God would send a Servant to bring the God's message to the world! What is one way this Advent season that you can serve God and share His message of love with someone who doesn't know Him?

Scan the QR code for this week’s lesson video:

