

the earth throughout his kingdom. Alongside this, however, Isaiah paints the picture of one who is meek and gentle. He does not cry aloud, denouncing us. He does not ruthlessly crush and quench us when we fall before him in repentance and faith. He lovingly shepherds us and fans into flame the work of the Spirit in our hearts.

Discussion Questions

- How does Jesus show that he loves sinners?
- Have you ever felt crushed down by the weight of your sin and ashamed? Consider how Jesus treats you based on Isaiah 42.

Day 5 – Recite memory verse

We can't finish our Advent trek through Isaiah without landing in chapter 53. We have not seen Christ until we have seen him in his suffering. Isaiah presents the Messiah in a manner that many of the Old Testament Israelites must have struggled to understand. Rather than 'Conquering King' we come to know him as 'Suffering Servant'. Isaiah 53:1-3 *Who has believed what he has heard from us? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.* The glory of the gospel, and the marvel of the first Advent, is that Jesus came to die for sinners. He knew us in our distress and need. We deserved his judgement and derision, yet he came and took that judgement for us. Isaiah 53:4-5 *Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.* Jesus suffered for us, so that we could live forever with him!

Discussion Questions

- How was Jesus different than the Messiah that so many expected? How do you think the Jews missed the truth of Isaiah 53?
- Spend some time praising Jesus for what he did in our place.

A d v e n t

Family Worship Guide



West Oaks Baptist Church

(in preparation for Sunday, December 22nd, 2024)

Advent Devotional #2

Suggested Memory Verse

Luke 24:44-45 Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures

Day 1 – Recite memory verse

We continue on our Advent journey this week and look at the growing testimony that the Old Testament gives to the coming redeemer. We looked last week at the revelation that Jacob gives concerning the son of Judah. He would be a king to rule the nations. Judah eventually does have a descendent who becomes a great king, King David! Yet David knows he is not the final promised seed. The redeemer is to be one of David's descendants. David, as a prophet, writes an entire song book for the people of God to proclaim the glories of that coming king. Psalm 2 sets the stage for this proclamation. Psalm 2:7-8 *I will tell of the decree: The Lord said to me, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you. Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession.* In Psalm 2 God stands with his 'anointed' against the kings of the earth. While they rebel, God sets his son on His throne to rule and reign. Everyone is given the command *Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way, for his wrath is quickly kindled.* When Jesus finally comes everyone will be given a choice. They can continue in their rebellion, or they can repent and believe in Jesus Christ as their king and savior. The Psalm ends with the wonderful promise to those who believe, *Blessed are all who take refuge in him.*

Discussion Questions

- What is your favorite Psalm? Share how it tells about Jesus.
- Have you taken refuge in Jesus?

Day 2 – Recite memory verse

The Psalms are filled with messianic prophecies about Jesus Christ. Isaiah is also filled with such wonders. Because of this, the book has often been affectionately called, 'The Gospel of Isaiah'. Many of our Christmas songs are pulled from these pages. Isaiah paints a picture of the coming Kingdom of God. Along the way he gives expression to a wonderful figure who will take the key place in this Kingdom. Isaiah 7:14 *Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.* This famous prophecy reveals two important features of the messiah. The first is that he is a man. *Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son.* Just as God promised in the first pages of Genesis, His redemption of mankind would come through the birth of one descended from Eve, the seed of the woman. The redeemer would not be a mighty angel, some great exalted being who could have no place in our lowly mess. The redeemer would be from the very line of sinners and rebels. He would be human. Yet, not merely human. Isaiah says, *Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.* In the person of the redeemer we find one who is both human, and divine. Immanuel means 'God with us'. The virgin birth testifies that this miracle truly happened. Because Jesus is both God and man he is able to be our perfect savior.

Discussion Questions

- Why do you think Jesus has so many names?
- Why is it important and helpful for us to remember and use these names when talk about Him and pray to Him?

Day 3 – Recite memory verse

Alongside yesterday's verse, today we look at one of the most beloved Old Testament verses proclaiming the coming messiah. We have here a collection of names that Jesus would claim for himself. Isaiah 9:6-7 *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.* As with the Emmanuel verse, we see juxtaposed the identity of the messiah as 'one of us' with his amazing claim to be Yahweh. In calling him 'wonderful counselor' we hear both echos of the Wisdom character of Proverb with the New Testament identity of the Holy Spirit as counsellor. Next we have Mighty God and Everlasting Father. Here Jesus claims the name of Yahweh, followed by a name we would associate with God the Father in distinction from the Son. Jesus is not the person of God the Father. Jesus is our father in the sense that all of his people are his 'seed' spiritually. He is our father in the New Covenant, as the covenant head who represents us. Finally, Prince of Peace indicates he is the king who brings us peace with God.

Discussion Questions

- Why do you think Jesus has so many names?
- Why is it important and helpful for us to remember and use these names when talk about Him and pray to Him?

Day 4 – Recite memory verse

What sort of man would the Messiah be? We know he will be the king to crush the serpent's head, rule the nations, and judge his enemies. Yet, a fuller picture is necessary to see the scope of the character that Christ would come in. Isaiah 42:1-4 *Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my Spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. He will not cry aloud or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a faintly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. He will not grow faint or be discouraged till he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his law.* In this passage, quoted by Jesus in Matt 12:18, Isaiah reveals an aspect of Jesus that we so desperately need. He must come as king, and he must conquer. Yet, what about we who are poor sinners in need of a savior? Is there hope for us when the king comes? Isaiah says that Jesus will bring justice in