



# What are You Waiting For - Prince of Peace

Week of Dec. 20-26, 2020

## Key Message

The Prince of Peace came to make us whole, not happy.

## Discuss

- Are you a fan of Christmas music? Explain why or why not?
- What is your favorite Christmas song?
- Prior to the sermon, how would you have defined or described peace?
- If you have time watch the Bible Project Advent series video "Shalom".

<https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/shalom-peace>

## Read and Discover

### Read Colossians 1:19-23

- What stands out to you in this passage about the peace that is available to us through Jesus?
- What prevents you from believing you are adequate in God's eyes?
- Why do you think people drift away from this assurance?
- Who do you know that needs to hear how much God loves them and wants to restore them?

### Read Ephesians 2:14-18 & 4:2-4

- As followers of Jesus, how do these verses speak to our role in bringing peace to our communities?
- Thinking back over the year of 2020, what tangible ways have you worked for peace in your neighbors, family, or at work?

### Read Psalm 4 and John 16:33

- How did David find peace in the midst of conflict in this psalm?
- What would it look like for you to experience wholeness and restoration in the midst of conflict today?



## Application

- What is going on in your life this advent season that is preventing you from experiencing the peace of Jesus?
- Which of these four names of Jesus do you need to experience most this Advent season? (Wonderful Counselor, Almighty God, Everlasting Father, or Prince of Peace) Why?
- Close in prayer.
  - Constant reminder that you are enough in God's eyes.
  - Friends and family who need to know the peace of Jesus.
  - Wisdom to know how to be people of peace in our culture today.



# What are You Waiting For - Everlasting Father

Week of Dec. 13-19, 2020

## Key Message

Jesus is our stable, dependable, reliable, and eternal Everlasting Father.

## Discuss

- What was your favorite Christmas gift you received as a child?
- What happened to that gift? Do you still have it?
- How did God speak to you during this message this week?
- Isaiah calls Jesus the 'Everlasting Father'. Does this mean Jesus and God the Father are referring to the same person? How do you reconcile this with examples when Jesus seems to be praying to his father in heaven?

## Read and Discover

### Read John 14:1-14

- What stands out to you in this passage about who Jesus is?
- Based on what you know of Jesus from the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John), how would you describe God?

### Read John 15:9-13 & John 6:30-35

- The Father's heart is to love, provide for, and rescue His children. Is this the image of a father that you grew up with?
- In what ways have you projected the image of your earthly father onto your Everlasting Father? Has that helped or hindered your relationship with Jesus?
- How is your Everlasting Father different than your earthly father?
- How can you recalibrate and move to seeing your earthly father figures through the lens of your heavenly father rather than seeing your heavenly father through the lens of your earthly dad?



### **Read John 1:1-5 & Genesis 1:1-2**

- In what ways do you see or experience Jesus's presence in your life?
- How might God be calling you through Holy Spirit living in you to be the presence of God in someone else's life?
- Jesus says in Matthew 28:20, "I am with you always to the end of time." How does this verse comfort you this advent season?

### **Application**

- What is an aspect of your life that you need to trust your Everlasting Father with?
- When people look at our lives do they see our Everlasting Father (loving, prioritizing people, share His love with others, etc)? What is one thing we can ask God to work on in our lives this week to make us more like Him?
- Name one person who needs to know about Jesus as Everlasting Father this Christmas. Commit to praying for this person this week. Follow up with an update next week.
- Close in prayer.



# What are You Waiting For - Mighty God

Week of Dec. 6 - Dec.12, 2020

## Key Message

Jesus' power is real even if we don't see it the way we expect or want.

## Discuss

- What is your family's new routine on Sunday's? Take-out from a favorite restaurant after church? Brunch during church? Etc.
- Who controls the TV remote in your house and what is their go-to show to watch?
- What experiences have you had in life or nature where you were blown away by God's power?

## Read and Discover

### Read Jeremiah 32:16-20

- What stands out to you in this passage about God's power? God's Love?
- One of the ways the Israelites in the Old Testament helped themselves believe God had the power to work in their lives was by remembering how He had worked before. Where have you seen God's power at work in your life or relationships in the past?
- What hard thing do you need God to do in your life today?

### Read Philippians 2:12-13 and Galatians 5:22-23

- How has God been at work in your life over the past year making you more like Him? How have you grown or changed as a Christian?
- Which one of the fruits of the Spirit do you need God's power the most? Explain.

### Read Isaiah 40:28-31

- Can you think of a challenging time in your life when you felt tired, tested, or exhausted?
- How did God show up and provide strength for you during that time?



*“My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness.’ So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses so that the power of Christ can work through me. That’s why I take pleasure in my weaknesses, and in the insults, hardships, persecutions, and troubles that I suffer for Christ. For when I am weak, then I am strong.” (II Corinthians 12:9-10)*

- Is it easy for you to believe the truth of these verses? Why or why not?

### **Read Acts 1:7-8**

- God’s power in our lives is not for our benefit but for the good of those around us. Who do you know needs to hear the message of hope that the Gospel provides this Advent season?

### **Application**

- Where do you need to see God’s power at work in your life this Advent season?
- When we get to Advent 2021, how do you want your relationship with Jesus to be different than it is today?
- Spend time in prayer as a group for the following things...
  - For opportunities to share the hope of Jesus with the person you listed above.
  - God’s power to be at work in our hard situations and making us more like Jesus.
  - God would use us to spread His message of faith, hope, love, and peace to a world that needs it.



# What are You Waiting For - Wonderful Counselor

Week of Nov. 29-Dec.5, 2020

## Key Message

Jesus is the Wonderful Counselor who experienced life as we know it and has the wisdom to guide us through.

## Discuss

- Did your family establish any new traditions this Thanksgiving? If so what were they?
- What were your family advent traditions?
- Advent is a season of waiting. Historically, the Israelites were waiting on their Messiah. The church is waiting on the return of Jesus. What are you waiting on God to do during Advent 2020?

## Read and Discover

### Read Isaiah 9:6-7

- When you read about this new King and His Kingdom, what stands out to you?
- Why are these things important to you?
- Is this a kingdom you would want to be a part of? Why or why not?
- Based on what you know about Jesus's time on earth, how did He accomplish this work in His ministry?

### Read Hebrews 2:16-18 & 4:14-5:4

*"It's obvious, of course, that he didn't go to all this trouble for angels. It was for people like us, children of Abraham. That's why he had to enter into every detail of human life. Then, when he came before God as high priest to get rid of the people's sins, he would have already experienced it all himself—all the pain, all the testing—and would be able to help where help was needed."* Hebrews 2:16-18 (The Message)

- If you were going to see a counselor for an issue in your life, what character qualities would you want them to possess? Why?
- When you think about Jesus's life and work here on earth is it easy for you to imagine he was tempted like



you are tempted or difficult? Explain.

- The author of Hebrews says that if we draw near to Jesus, He will help us. How have you experienced this truth in your life?

## Application

- As we walk through this Advent season, what plans do you have that will help you draw closer to Jesus?
- What issues or struggles are you facing right now and what wisdom or counsel do you need for Jesus to help you through them?
- Who do you know who needs to experience the wonderful counsel, wisdom, and help that only Jesus can provide?
- How do you think Jesus wants to use you in that situation?
- Spend time in prayer as a group for the following things...
  - The people you mentioned earlier
  - We would see God show up to help in the middle of our own struggles this Advent season
  - Each other that this time of Advent (waiting) will be meaningful for you
  - God would use us to spread His message of faith, hope, love, and peace to a world that needs it.