

A Weary World Rejoices

Week 7 – What Do You Call Him?

Transition: Israel knew war and corrupt rulers for a long time. But God comforted his people with news that a perfect ruler was coming. One like they have never seen before. His rule and his reign would be perfect.

Context: In this week's passage, we see that Immanuel has different titles that tell us who he is, and who he is to us. He is Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace.

Opening Questions:

- Explain the meaning of your name and why your parents chose it for you. Why do you feel the meaning of a name is important?
- Describe a time when you have associated a person's name with negativity. What made it negative?

Scripture/Storying: Isaiah 9:6c

Discipleship Questions:

- How does Isaiah 9:6c (starting with "and his name shall be called") fit into the overarching message God has for his people in Isaiah 9:1-7?
- The word "wonderful" carries the idea of "extraordinary." Why is Immanuel extraordinary to you?
- Compare and contrast the counsel of Immanuel and the counsel of the world. Describe a time when you received counsel from Immanuel? How did it help? Describe a time when counsel from the world went wrong for you.
- Read Jeremiah 32:18. In this text, Jeremiah says Yahweh (the LORD) is mighty God. Why is the fact that Immanuel is also called "mighty God" important to you?
- The title "Everlasting Father" is not referring to Jesus as God the Father. While Immanuel is God, this title rather pictures Immanuel as protector of his people. He will be a fatherly ruler. How have you experienced the fatherly love of Jesus? What makes an everlasting fatherly protector appealing to you?
- The word "peace" gives the idea of "completeness" or "fulness." Describe a time when you felt this kind of peace. How does the idea of completeness and fullness contrasts the peace this world offers? What feelings/emotions stir within, when you think of future eternal completeness and fullness?
- **Prayer time:** This month we will be taking a hiatus from our typical routine of praying for our ministry partners to focus more specifically on one prayer. For the month of December, we will focus on praying for peace in the Middle East and the birthplace of Christ.