

# Welcome to our Christmas Celebration!

We are glad you chose to join us today to worship our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We hope that your stay will be both meaningful and memorable.

## Our Mission

We are a church that seeks to bring glory to God, to build the local church through discipleship and to fulfill the Great Commission.



## Announcements

We will be starting a Christmas sermon series entitled, “**Away in a Manger,**” where we will be looking at the Christmas story from the perspectives of five Biblical characters – Isaiah, Mary, Joseph, Shepherds and the Wise Men.

Mark your calendars for our 2020 week-long **Prayer & Fasting** to be held on **January 20-24, 2020**. Let’s start the new year by coming together as a congregation in prayer as we seek God’s favor for our church and for our lives.



## How Can We Pray For You?

It is our privilege to pray for you. You may send your prayer requests by text, by writing them on the prayer cards provided or by sending us a private message on our FB page!



## Discover Life in the Small Groups

We are passionate about community.

We encourage you to join our small groups where we cultivate meaningful relationships and grow in our relationship with God together.

To join a group, you may inquire from our volunteers at the Information Booth.



## Stay for Fellowship & Refreshments

We invite you to stay for coffee and fellowship after the service. Take the opportunity to meet new friends or inquire about our small groups or about the church.

Our weekend Services are held at the Café Corazon (2nd Floor), Bai Hotel, North Reclamation Area, Mandaue City, every Sunday 10AM-12NN and 1PM-3PM.

\*The Living Word NRA Center is located at the 2/F Northgate Centre, Banilad (across Country Mall and beside University of Cebu-Banilad).

## Get in touch with us:



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LIVING WORD NRA  
Worship God. Advance His Kingdom.

# Away In A MANGER

## HIS NAME SHALL BE CALLED

Isaiah 9:6

Pastor Nic Sy | December 8, 2019 | 10AM Christmas Celebration Service

## sermon notes



## SERMON THEME/BIG IDEA



## MY NOTES/HIGHLIGHTS

# Small Group Discussion Guide

For the week of December 8-14, 2019



## Sermon quick review

As you recall this week's sermon entitled "His Name Shall Be Called," what was the most compelling or memorable point that stood out or confused or challenged you?

Or

Briefly share (1) a spiritual LESSON that you learned from the sermon, (2) an application from your last week's NEXT STEPS or (3) a PRAISE report from the past week.

## Connecting

Share to the group the story or the meaning of your name. (e.g. How did you get your name? Why did your parents give you your name? Do you have a nickname?)

## Group discussion

1. Read Isaiah 7:14 and 9:6. This was written 700 years or so before Jesus was born. Over 300 biblical prophecies were fulfilled in Jesus leading many mathematicians to indicate the odds of happening as nearly impossible. What are your thoughts about these prophecies being written so many years before Jesus was born?
2. "Wonderful Counsellor" was one of the four things Isaiah 9:6 says Jesus will be known as. Read Psalm 16:7-8. What does David say about the counsel of the Lord? What was his posture in verse 8?
3. *Share.* Think about the last time you had to make an important decision. How did you go about it? Did you ask God for counsel? Did you hear from him?
4. Some scholars translate the phrase "Mighty God" as the "God-Warrior." Read 2 Chronicles 32:8 and 1 Samuel 2:1-10. What pictures of God as a warrior do you see in these passages?
5. The term "Everlasting Father" can mean "Father of Eternity" or that he is Father forever. How has your experience with your earthly father (of if you no longer have

a father, those dads that you have seen) shape your understanding of the heavenly Father? What aspect/area of Jesus as a "Father forever" (e.g. his love, protection, care, provision, protection, etc.) have you experienced recently?

6. *Discuss.* What is the difference between peace of God and peace with God?
7. **[NEXT STEPS]** Ask each one to check the boxes that apply to them. Consider these suggestions and be ready to share about your experience next week.
  - I will commit to go through the devotionals everyday this week.
  - If you have not yet surrendered your life to Jesus, would you like to do it? (Ask your small group leader to lead you.)
  - I will meditate on these four names this week and seek to see his hand in my circumstances.
  - I will ask for guidance from the Lord and obey his Word.
  - I will remind myself that he is a mighty God as I face my difficult circumstances this week.
  - I will be sensitive to thank him for his provisions, his care and his protection.
  - I will repent of any sin that has caused me to stray away from his peace.

## Closing the session.

(Group facilitators: Before closing, read through the "Personal Reflections & Action.") Close the session by taking the time to pray for one another. Consider the following as you pray:

- Take time to express your praise to Jesus for who he is.
- Pray for those who are going through personal struggles.
- Pray for your unsaved family, friends and loved ones.

## Personal reflection & action.

The name of a person in Scripture often reveals important clues about their identity and destiny. This is no less true of our Creator. Studying the different names of God will help us better comprehend his multifaceted nature.

When it comes to naming God, however, we find that man does not give names to him. Instead the Lord reveals his name to his people, maintaining the Creator-creature distinction. At the burning bush, for instance, the Lord reveals his covenant name to be Yahweh (Ex. 3:14). God also does not give his name to everyone who asks for it, and commentators note this is because some might misuse it (Gen. 32:29). There are cases that seem to deny the principle that God does not let us name him, such as Hagar's calling the Lord "a God of seeing" (16:13). But even here we see that this name comes as a result of revelation to her (vv. 7-12). Hagar merely recognizes the name our Creator implicitly gives to himself through his intervention to save her.

We do not name God; He names himself. This is important to remember in a pluralistic society like ours that wants to attribute false characteristics to God. By holding fast to the Lord's own self-revelation, we guard the faith once for all delivered to the saints.

See Question #7 (Next Steps) for specific personal applications



