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.

Dur 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.



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.



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!



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.

Ď Stay for Fellowship Ef Refreshments

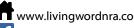
We invite you to stay for coffee and fellowship after the service. Take the opportunity to meet new friends or inquire about our small groups or about the church.

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:

info@livingwordnra.com www.livingwordnra.com 32.517.5991 (Office)



0927.505.2413 (Text only) www.facebook.com/livingwordnra



HIS NAME SHALL BE CALLED

Isaiah 9:6 Pastor Nic Sv | December 8, 2019 | 10AM Christmas Celebration Service

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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?
- [NEXT STEPS] Ask each one to check the boxes that apply to them. Consider these suggestions and be ready so 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 <u>pray for one another</u>. 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 Et 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

DAY 4. **EVERLASTING FATHER**

Read: Isaiah 9:6.

The Hebrew phrase translated "Everlasting Father" could be translated literally "Father of Eternity." For this reason, some have suggested that the title means that this coming Messiah is also the creator of everything: He is the father of time and eternity, the "architect of the ages." However, in the Hebrew construction of the phrase, *father* is the primary noun, and *everlasting* (ESV, NIV, KJV) or *eternal* (NASB) is the term that describes his fatherhood, meaning, he is Father forever.

Now we can think of "Everlasting Father" to describe the caring relationship between a protector and those under his charge. A king was sometimes described as the father of his people. Job used the term to describe himself as "a father to the needy" (Job 29:16).

Think of the relationship between a father and his children. At his best, a father wants and seeks what is good for his children. It might not always be what they want, but it is for their good. A father loves, protects, nurtures, and provides. Jesus establishes this kind of relationship with the children of God. Earthly fathers fail, even to the point of distorting our understanding of God the Father. But God our Father never fails us. Christ's care and provision for the children of God is unchanging and secure. Jesus is the Everlasting Father; there is nothing temporary or passing about his steadfast love and abiding faithfulness.

Reflect & Apply.

1. When you think about your earthly father, what comes to your mind? Has your image of your earthly father affected your view of God? Why or why not?

DAY 5. PRINCE OF PEACE

Read: John 14:15-27.

The world is marked by sorrow, drenched in blood, wounded by war, and sickened by hatred.

Wars become increasingly bloody and people increasingly violent. There are wars between nations and wars within families. There are tribal wars and religious wars. We are in constant conflict.

Our hearts are often battlefields. We raise monuments to peace and build more and more weapons of destruction. We speak of peace, but we spend more on war. We say that love is the oxygen of life, but we breathe batted

In a world marked by violence and conflict in the clutches of sin, Jesus presents himself as the Prince of Peace.

He came not just to talk about peace; he is peace. He came to make peace with his blood on the cross. He gives us peace with God, because he forgives our sins. He gives us the peace of God, because he relieves the anxiety in our hearts.

He gives us inner peace because wherever Jesus reigns, joy triumphs over sorrow, love prevails over heartache, and hope raises its flag where despair once reigned.

Is your heart filled with the Prince of Peace?

Reflect & Apply.

- 1. In verses 25-31, Jesus promises peace to his disciples. How does the peace that Jesus is promising impact a sinful person, a religious person, and you?
- 2. In Matthew 5:9, Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God." Is there a situation today where God can use you as a peacemaker?
- 3. Is there any area in your life or a struggle today where you do not experience the peace of God? Why are you not at peace? Is there something specific that the Holy Spirit is saying to you?







"HIS NAME SHALL BE CALLED"

December 8, 2019

Questions for Personal Study & Reflection

This 5-day devotional includes readings with brief commentaries that builds upon the weekend sermon.

You are encouraged to take the time to read the Bible passages and meditate on them. On average,

you will need 20-30 minutes to complete them.

Reflection questions and applications are intended to invite you to slow down and mediate on the truth that God is teaching you. Daily application steps are also given to help drive the message in practical ways.

DAY 1. WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Read: Genesis 16:1-16.

As Genesis has demonstrated, 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 (Jude 3).

Reflect & Apply.

- 1. What parts of the story in Genesis 16 struck you most? Why?
- 2. Why is it important in this passage (and to your personally) that God is described as the "One who sees me" (verse 13, NIV)?
- 3. At some point in our lives, all of us have taken something into our own hands and the consequences were worst than the struggle of waiting on God. What do you need to trust God with? Take a small item (e.g. paper clip, piece of rock, etc.) and let that represent what you need to surrender to God and give it to him. Put it in a place where you can see it often in order to remember that you have already surrendered this to the Lord.

DAY 2. WONDERFUL COUNSELOR

Read: Isaiah 9:6: Psalm 16.

Isaiah reminds us of God's gift of Jesus as our Wonderful Counselor. In his divinity he is all knowing. In his humanity, he understands. When we are tempted to cry, "But you don't know what I am going through!" we need to know that Jesus has walked in our shoes. He faced temptation, pain, loss, betrayal, and even death for our sake. He knows, cares, and understands.

When Jesus came into this world, he offered the most wonderful counselthe way to new life.

One day a rich young man came to Jesus, asking how he could get eternal life. Jesus gave him good counsel: "Go, sell your possessions ... Then come, follow me" (Matthew 19:21). In other words, make Jesus the priority in your life. But "when the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth" (19:22). Jesus gave wonderful counsel, but the man walked away from the One who could have guided him to eternal life.

Jesus, the Wonderful Counselor, guides us in paths of righteousness and in the way of everlasting life. In his words are health and healing, but we must be willing to follow him as our guide through life.

Reflect & Apply.

- 1. Read Psalm 16. What is David's request in this psalm? What do you think about his statement in verse 7 about the counsel of God?
- In Psalm 16:8, David said, "I have set the LORD always before me..."
 (NIV). What would that look like for you to do that today? How would this posture enable you to hear the counsel of God?
 Think about the last time you had to make an important decision; how
- did you go about it? Did you ask God? Did he lead you? Why or why not? What do you need to change?

DAY 3. MIGHTY GOD

Read: Job 42.

Today's verse comes at the end of a difficult journey. Job, the author, had suffered much loss and experienced great pain. He'd been judged and chastised by his friends, and finally, after he'd lost almost everything, God spoke. But God didn't explain why Job suffered. Instead, he presented a series of questions that reminded Job of his vast power and his work as Creator. As a result, Job turned his eyes from his suffering and onto the Almighty, all-powerful God.

He was left in awe. In the middle of his pain, Job experienced God personally, and in that moment, that was enough. He had no doubt that God could do anything and that He alone was worthy of worship and praise.

Focusing on God's strength should inspire that same awe in us. We should be amazed at His love. He can do and achieve anything, yet he created us. Though strong enough to control us, if he chose, he invites us into a relationship with him. He wants us to love him in return.

Today, celebrate the awesome power of God, sing loudly and proudly of his greatness, and thank him for inviting you into his family.

Reflect & Apply.

- 1. Did God ever tell Job why he suffered or what God's purpose was for Job? Do you often ask God the "why" of your situation?
- 2. What conclusion did Job reach regarding God in 42:2? What did he confess? In what ways do we speak of things we don't understand? How did God reveal himself as a mighty God?
- 3. Today's challenge is to meditate on the word mighty and consider what it means to you. When you think about God's mighty power, what comes to your mind? What difference does it make in your life? How might you apply your understanding of the word mighty in your own life this week?