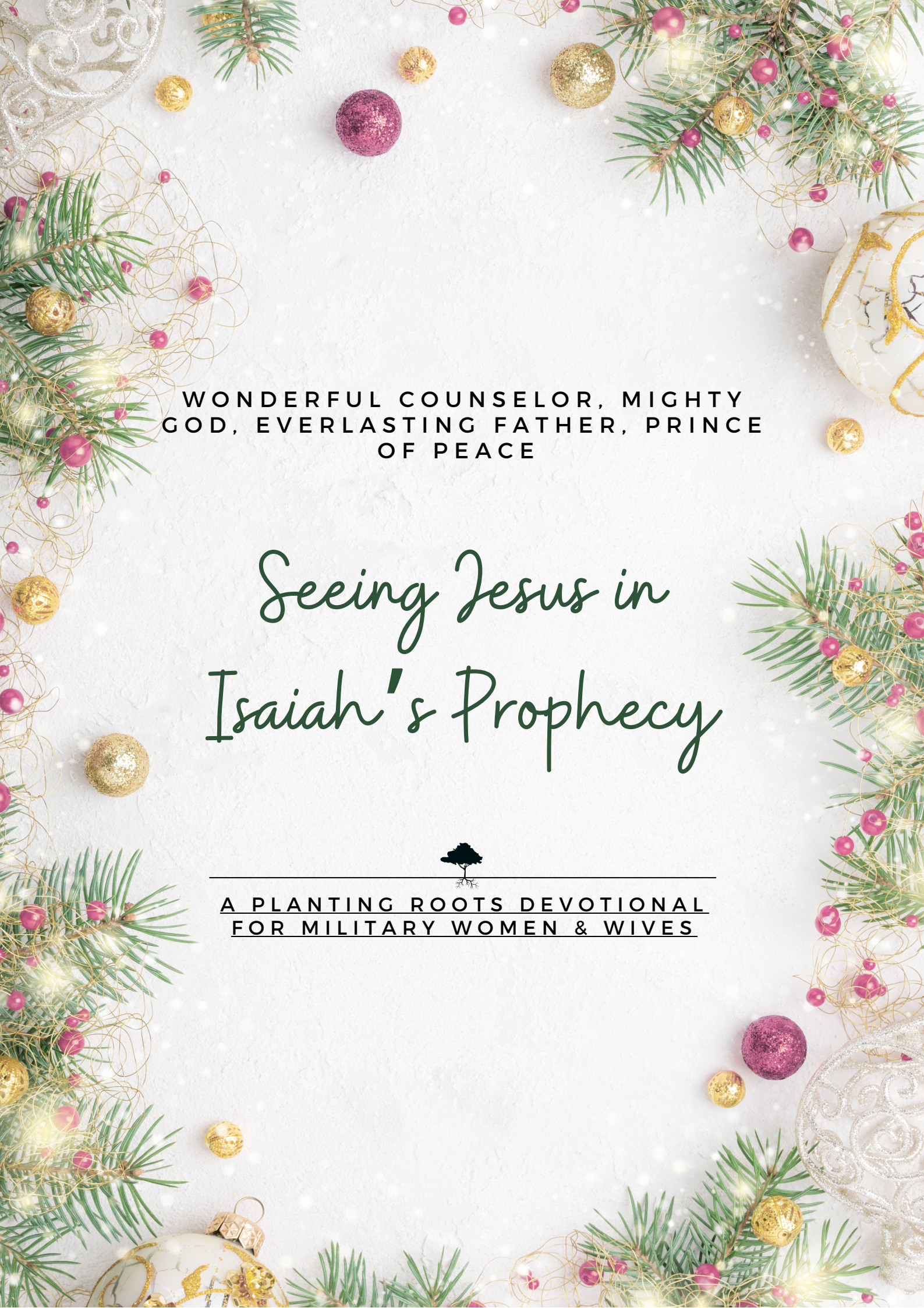




WONDERFUL COUNSELOR, MIGHTY
GOD, EVERLASTING FATHER, PRINCE
OF PEACE

Seeing Jesus in Isaiah's Prophecy



A PLANTING ROOTS DEVOTIONAL
FOR MILITARY WOMEN & WIVES

Seeing Jesus in Isaiah's Prophecy

25 Devotional Readings for Advent

By Kelli Baker



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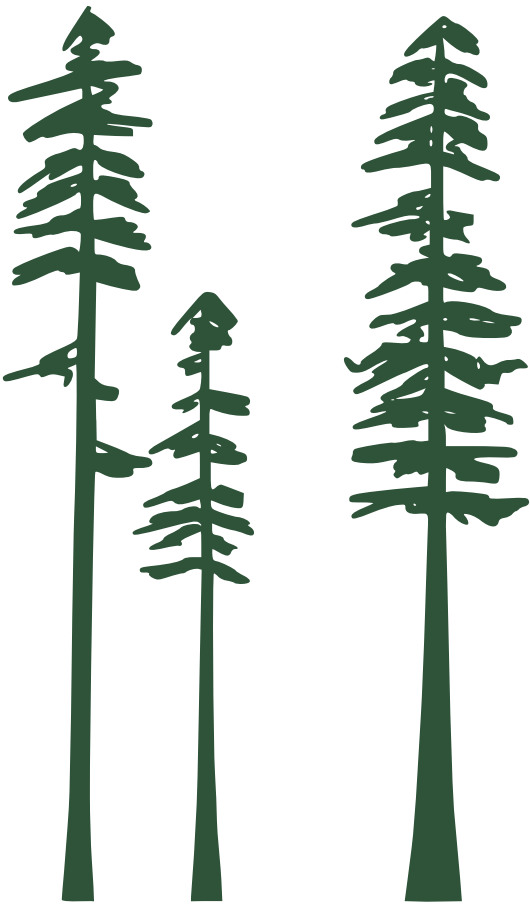
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Introduction

"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."

ISAIAH 9:6



What are you waiting on? Our lives are marked by seasons of waiting. Whether you're waiting for orders to your next duty station, waiting to return from a deployment, or waiting for the right guy to marry. We are always waiting for something. What if I told you that it's all part of God's plan?

I want to remind you of the hope we have this Christmas season as we wait for the birth of our Lord and Savior. Ultimately, it prepares us for when Jesus returns to take us to glory. In the meantime, we are called to wait for him. How do we wait well?

Waiting

Do you wait well? I believe it is important for Christians to understand what it means and why we should observe the Advent season.

What is advent? Advent is the season of expectant waiting for both the celebration of Jesus' birth at Christmas as well as Christ's return at the Second Coming. As we wait to celebrate Jesus' birth, we are ultimately preparing for the Second Coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. In the meantime, we have the promise of the Holy Spirit to be with us in the waiting. We celebrate advent in remembrance of Jesus' birth, but also remind ourselves that he is coming back.

Waiting for The Messiah

During this advent season, I would like to take a different approach and encourage you to come along with me. The prophet Isaiah wrote in Isaiah 9:6 about the coming Messiah,

"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."

We recite this common verse each year during the Christmas season. I've written it on Christmas cards for years. However, do we truly know what the prophet Isaiah meant when he wrote about the coming Messiah? When Isaiah prophesied about the Savior, Israel was in desperate need. Their lack of faith in God led them to put their trust in worldly powers. As they joined forces with the surrounding nations, their hearts drifted farther and farther away from God. Because of their disobedience, they fell under Assyrian control. The Israelites experience great oppression from Assyria. Isaiah spoke these words of a Savior who would ultimately deliver them. However, unfortunately for them, Jesus would not come for nearly 700 more years. They would wait for their redeemer.

Hope in The Waiting

Just as we wait for our redeemer to return and take us to glory, we can rely on him with expectant hope in all areas of our lives. We will unpack how Jesus fulfilled each of the roles leading up to Christmas. We will examine how Jesus fulfills each of them in our lives still today. Do we rely on Jesus with our cares and concerns as Wonderful Counselor? Do we believe Jesus is Mighty God? Do we rest in Jesus' arms as the Everlasting Father? And do we come to Jesus as Prince of Peace in times of turmoil?

We have many distractions that vie for our attention, but what would happen if we laid those distractions aside this advent season and looked to Jesus as we wait with anticipation to celebrate his birth? Might those around us see a difference in our countenance if we looked to Jesus to fulfill our every need rather than worldly things?

So What?

Despite what the world tells us we must do this Christmas season, I encourage you to hit the pause button and look to Jesus as Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace.

Prayer

Dear Lord, thank you for sending your son Jesus Christ to save our souls. Help us to lay aside our agendas this advent season and look upon your face instead. May we be reminded of the truth that you are all we need. In your name, Amen.

WEEK ONE:

Wonderful Counselor

"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."

ISAIAH 9:6



DAY ONE

Isaiah 9:6

Jeremiah 32:19

2 Samuel 16:20-23

Think about what you are waiting on. Would you say you are waiting with expectant hope or are you anxiously waiting?

This month as we wait expectantly for the celebration of Jesus' birthday on Christmas morning, I would like us to focus on him as Isaiah prophesied his coming in Isaiah 9:6.

"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."

Each week we will focus on a different characteristic of Jesus as we slow down and look to him. In week one, we will be discovering Jesus as The Wonderful Counselor.

History of Counseling

All throughout God's Word we read about the importance of counseling. In the Old Testament we see time and time again the wicked counsel of men on earth. Solomon's son, Rehoboam, took the advice of the wrong counselors in 1 King 12. He decided to dismiss the counsel of the wise elder and side with the wicked ways of his peers.

While I do believe that God enables some to be good counselors, ultimately, the Wonderful Counselor is Jesus. He is the one from where all wisdom, direction, and instruction should come. He is the only one who sees and knows our hearts. He knows our desires and our gifts, but he also knows our weaknesses and struggles.

Jeremiah 32:19, "great in counsel and mighty in deed, whose eyes are open to all the ways of the children of man, rewarding each one according to his ways and according to the fruit of his deeds."

Need for Counseling

According to the Merriam-Webster Dictionary, a counselor is someone who gives advice. A synonym for "counselor" is "advisor." We are still in need of good counsel today. How often do you encounter daily concerns that you would welcome advice? What about when you get to a new duty station? You should have a sponsor who guides you through in-processing and may show you around the new city.

In the military, it is normal to get monthly or quarterly evaluations that serve as a guide or advice for your success. When I served in the Army, I would counsel my Soldiers monthly. The initial counseling would serve as a guide or a standard which I expected my Soldiers to obtain. Then preceding counselings would gauge their performance so they would know where they were excelling and where they could do some more work.

Examples of Biblical Counseling

The idea of counseling has earned a negative reputation in today's world. We think something is wrong if we need to see a professional. However, seeking counsel is wise and it's biblical. Israelite kings employed the advice of counselors. King David relied on the counsel of Ahithophel in 2 Samuel 16. As we explored earlier, King Rehoboam listened to the wrong counsel. Nonetheless, God places women and men in our lives to offer sound advice and counsel when we need it.

None compare to Jesus though.

Over the next few days we will explore how Jesus fulfills the role of Wonderful Counselor in our lives today. For now, ask yourself if you bring your cares and concerns to him as your Counselor. Ask God to reveal to you where you fail to rely on him to care for your soul and instead rely on the advice of others.

Prayer

Dear Lord, thank you for sending Jesus to the earth to become like us so he can be the Wonderful Counselor we need who relates with us and empathizes with our needs. Give us courage to lay our burdens and cares at His feet. Amen.

DAY TWO

Matthew 11:28-30

Where are you searching for rest and how might you turn your attention to Jesus during this advent season?

In today's passage, Jesus calls to all sinners and tells them to come to him and learn from him. Jesus' ministry on earth was to show the world his character and teach his disciples how to walk with him. His goal was to demonstrate what it looks like to love God and love others. When we follow Christ, we are filled with the Holy Spirit. He walks with us and shows us a better way.

A counselor's job is to work with the individual to create more effective patterns and a better quality of life. In the military, a counselor might help identify specific goals to reach for professional development.

As Wonderful Counselor, Jesus yokes us to him and leads the way. Jesus teaches us his ways as we are yoked to him. A yoke is a wooden crosspiece that attaches two animals together and is attached to a cart or a plow. Jesus used this description because the listeners in that day would understand the importance of a yoke. The younger oxen would be yoked to an older oxen to learn the way.

However, Jesus describes himself as gentle and lowly, or humble. He offers rest for our souls when we come to him and take his yoke. He doesn't say to strive for more or keep working harder. He says to learn from his gentleness and humility. His advice is to find rest in him.

Prayer

Dear Lord, thank you for the rest Jesus provides. Remind us of Jesus' gentleness and humility as we come to him. Amen.

DAY THREE

2 Corinthians 1:3-7

A counselor's role is to offer consolation to those who may be grieving. In our society, we are taught to grieve alone. When we follow this practice we will not fully heal which affects our relationships moving forward. Where do you feel you are just supposed to "pull up our bootstraps" and keep moving?

But Paul reminds us in today's passage that we will experience suffering in this world. However, we can be comforted because we know our Savior, Jesus Christ, suffered for us as well. He endured the cross so that we might be comforted by his obedience. Through Christ Jesus, God comforts us in all our afflictions. However, we must come to him to be comforted.

Think about the counseling process. Does the counselor come to us first? No, we must take the initiative to reach out for help in our time of need. When we do so with the Lord, Paul assures us that we will be comforted.

Have you taken your affliction and grief to the Lord? Nothing is insignificant to him.

Prayer

Dear Lord, thank you for the comfort Jesus provides. Help us to take the initiative to seek you in our suffering so we might experience your comfort. Amen.

DAY FOUR

John 13:12-15

How often do you evaluate whether your thoughts are based in truth or not? Another role a counselor plays is to set an example for how to positively impact the community around them. In today's passage, Jesus counseled his disciples on what it looks like to be a leader. Jesus gently rebuked Peter earlier on in the passage when he refused to have Jesus wash his feet. He wasn't afraid to be honest with his disciples and correct their wrong thinking, much like a good counselor should do.

Do you have a good counselor or mentor that walks with with you? Having a good counselor and mentor to walk you through what it looks like to make good choices is essential to living faithfully for God. But the counselors and mentors we seek on earth should only come secondary to our Wonderful Counselor, Jesus. He should be our first stop. The more time we spend with him in prayer and meditation the more we can hear where he is leading.

Do you spend quality time with Jesus each day? Try something new and set a timer for five minutes. Open with a prayer and then sit in the silence of Jesus' presence. Let him speak to you in the silence. Don't worry, your mind will wander. Keep turning your attention back to Jesus as you wrestle with your thoughts.

Prayer

Dear Lord, thank you for example Jesus set. Help us to quiet our minds and sit in your presence so we can hear you more clearly. Amen.

DAY FIVE

John 4:7-26

Psalm 36:7-9

Good counselors will call out the areas where we need to change, grow, or repent. In my own journey, I have had counselors reveal areas of my life where I needed to change. Reflect on a time when you had someone point out something that you needed to work on. How did they offer the advice? How did you respond - were you repentant or rebellious? Jesus gives himself in return for our repentance, something man cannot do.

In today's passage, Jesus went out of his way to meet a woman at a well. As the woman approached the well in the heat of the day, Jesus saw her. He didn't just see her outward appearance, but he saw her heart.

He offered her the living water that only he can provide. She was searching for wholeness in all the wrong areas. Jesus called her on it. He told her to stop worshiping the things of this world and worship the Father in spirit and in truth. He exposed her darkest secrets, but gave her a place to go with them instead of shaming or belittling her. As she drank from his well, she was renewed.

Our Wonderful Counselor wants to provide the living water we need to be whole. Where are you searching for wholeness? What are you worshiping in the place of the Father? Look to Jesus and let him fill you from the rivers of his delight.

Prayer

Dear Lord, thank you for the living water Jesus provides. Give us courage to come to you to fulfill our needs instead of the things of this world. Amen.

DAY SIX

John 16:12-15

Do you have someone you confide in honestly? We need the indwelling Counselor, because unlike counselors we have on earth, Jesus sees our hearts. He can see what we try to conceal to counselors here on earth. He gives us the most priceless gift. When we come to Jesus honestly, he gives us the gift of rest in him. Knowing his Spirit is working inside of us helps us persevere.

In today's passage, Jesus tells his disciples that once he leaves the Holy Spirit will come and guide them. The same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead is the same Spirit that he sent to dwell in us, his disciples. As the Wonderful Counselor, the Spirit guides us. Jesus said that he doesn't speak on his own authority though. The Spirit speaks only what he hears from the Father.

Which should be good news to us, because that means that the Spirit that dwells in us is speaking directly from the Father into us. It requires that we have ears to listen though. We must spend time reading God's word so we can recognize his truth. As we sit in silence, meditating on God's word, the Spirit will reveal God's will for us. But we must be intentional. A counselor doesn't seek out their clients. When someone needs guidance, they seek out a counselor.

As disciples of Christ, we always need guidance regardless of the season in which we find ourselves. What is holding you back from hearing the Spirit speak? What excuses are you making to not be in God's word? Ask God to reveal himself to you.

Prayer

Dear Lord, thank you for the Holy Spirit who speaks your truth and guides us to you. Help us to humble ourselves and seek your guidance through the power of the Spirit. Amen.

DAY SEVEN

John 14:15-17

John 14:26

Where do you need help? Our Wonderful Counselor is a helper. Counselors are helpers. As we've learned over the past week, counselors help navigate life's circumstances, they help guide you, and they help provide practical tips for behavioral changes. Jesus provides the same type of help.

In today's passage, Jesus just told his disciples that he was going away to prepare a place for them. Then he promised he would send help. Jesus promised to give his disciples a helper who would be with them always. He promised the Holy Spirit would never leave and dwell inside them.

Think about a new duty station. You typically have a sponsor who you shadow for the first few weeks. How helpful is it to have someone who knows the ins and outs of the unit and can help you learn to navigate? That is what the Holy Spirit does for believers. Except, he promised to be with us forever.

Do you rely on the Holy Spirit to produce the fruit of the Spirit inside you on a constant basis? Only the Lord knows our hearts. Only the Holy Spirit can show us where we fall short. He can help us turn and be more like Jesus. Like the psalmist in Psalm 139, ask the Spirit to reveal to you areas where you need to be circumcised to become more like Jesus.

Prayer

Dear Lord, thank you for sending the Helper to always be with us. Remind us to rely on him to help us navigate throughout the day so you may receive the glory. Amen.

WEEK TWO:

Mighty God

"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."

ISAIAH 9:6



DAY EIGHT

Isaiah 9:6

In our nation, there is much division among party lines. However, as a Christian, our allegiance should be to God's kingdom. Where does your allegiance lie? Does your allegiance to our country or to our God drive your interactions?

This week, we continue to wait expectantly for the celebration of Jesus' birthday on Christmas morning. The prophet Isaiah prophesied of Jesus coming in Isaiah 9:6.

"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."

Isaiah described four different roles of Jesus. During this advent season, I invite you to slow down and see how Jesus fulfilled each one of these attributes. In week one, we looked at Jesus as Wonderful Counselor. Let's turn our attention to Jesus as Mighty God.

Mighty God

At the time Isaiah wrote the prophecy of Jesus, the Israelites were under great oppression from the Assyrian government. They needed deliverance from the bondage in which they were under. Isaiah told them Jesus would come as a child and a son, but more importantly that the government would rest on his shoulders.

The Jews expected Jesus to come as a hero like David to overtake the governments that oppressed them. They envisioned the Messiah to be strong in military and political might. As women in the military, we might think of the word "mighty" and see a warrior ready for battle. We may picture a Soldier or a Marine armed with their kevlar donned and their rifle in hand.

However, God does not operate as man does. God's kingdom looks nothing like the one the Jews knew. It looks nothing like the world we live in today.

Mighty Means More Than Strength

In the Bible, the Hebrew word "gi-bor" is translated as mighty. The English translation does not describe the word in its entirety. Mighty relates to strength or impressive power but in Hebrew it also means "courage, self-sacrifice, and moral excellence."¹ Jesus would not come as a powerful warrior, but rather he courageously came to this earth, lived a life of moral excellence, and died self-sacrificially so we might be in relationship with him. That's what a Mighty God does.

Week Two: Mighty God

Gayle Erwin² describes how God's government looks different from the governments we have come to know.

"First of all, it would look like its king. Politicians of this day look for what they can get from you. Jesus looks for what He can do for you.

Leaders of this day surround themselves with servants. Jesus surrounds us with His servanthood.

Leaders of this day use their power to build their empire. Jesus uses his power to wash our feet and make us clean and comfortable.

Leaders of this day trade their influence for money. God so loved that he gave...

Generals of this day need regular wars to keep their weapons and skills up to date and insure their own advancement. Jesus brings peace and rest to hearts.

The higher the plane of importance one reaches in this world, the more inaccessible he becomes. Jesus was Emanuel, "God with us."

Leaders of this day are desperate to be seen and heard. Jesus sought anonymity so He could be useful.

Obviously, Jesus is not in charge of the halls of Washington, London, Moscow, Baghdad, Paris or Bonn. So, how can we ever believe the "government will be upon His shoulders"?

Actually, His government shows its workings in wonderful ways. Whenever I see someone who miraculously leaves a life of drugs or alcohol and is restored to his family and work, I can see that he is now governed by God.

Whenever I see loving Christians gently caring for orphans and those rejected by family, I know I am watching people governed by God.

Whenever I see people eagerly learning the Bible and joyously praising, I know who the governor is.

Whenever I see people give up lucrative careers simply to go and share the Good News of Jesus, I know they are governed by God.

When I see pastors carefully teach and lead the flock God has given them, I know they are getting signals from the great King.

When I see people leave family to live and teach in distant lands because they love the people who have not heard, I know they are governed by God.

So What?

Over the next week we will look at how Jesus is Mighty God. We will dig into his time on earth to see the miracles and wonders that back up the claim that he is Mighty God.

Prayer

Dear Lord, thank you for sending Jesus as Mighty God. Remind us to look to him as our King and conqueror rather than the strength of men. Amen.

References

1. Jesus as Wonderful Counselor, Jesus as Mighty God (lessonsfromhome.co).
2. Erwin, Gayle "The Government" Servant Quarters, January-February 1999 Newsletter, from www.servant.org.

DAY NINE

John 8:48-59

Exodus 3:13-14

Just like us, the Jews in Jesus' day were watching for their redeemer. While we know him as the son of God, the Jews in the first century would have seen the biggest indicator that Jesus is Mighty God in his claim to be "I am." God revealed himself to Moses as "I am" when he called Moses to deliver the Israelites from the yoke of slavery. They had been in slavery in Egypt for over 400 years. The Lord sent for Moses to lead them out of Egypt. Before Moses went to Pharaoh, he asked God who he should say sent him.

"God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And he said, "Say this to the people of Israel: 'I AM has sent me to you.'" Exodus 3:14

The Jews would've known this story. They would know "I Am" was the one who led their ancestors out of Egypt. Which is why Jesus' claim to be "I Am" was so dangerous. The Pharisees were always on the lookout to catch Jesus lying. In John's account, Jesus makes the seemingly scandalous claim to be the "I Am." Jesus proved himself to be the "I Am" when he died and rose from the dead. Not to mention the healing and forgiveness he offered during the three years he spent walking the earth.

Rather than believe Jesus' claim, the Pharisees sought to stone him. They didn't know God in their hearts; therefore, they couldn't recognize Jesus as the one sent to deliver God's children once and for all.

Do you believe wholeheartedly that Jesus is the "I Am"? The Hebrew word for "I Am" is Yahweh. Jesus is Yahweh and desires to be all that we need. Trust in him as the "I Am" to deliver you from whatever is holding you back from walking in who he has called you to be. Trust in him to conquer the lies.

I am not smart enough.

I am too old/young.

I am not qualified.

I am too busy.

Because of who Jesus is and what he did on the cross, you are enough.

Prayer

Dear Lord, thank you for the deliverance found in Jesus. Help us to see him as the "I Am" who is all that we could even think or ask for. Amen.

DAY TEN

Luke 1:26-28

2 Samuel 7:12-16

Could you imagine living in Mary's day? How would you perceive her if she claimed she was a virgin? The Gospels give a beautiful depiction of how Jesus came to this earth. Mary conceived him before she had been with Joseph. Of course this would stir up the gossiping ears, so an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph to assure him that the baby was indeed conceived from the Holy Spirit. Only by the might and power of God could a child be conceived in such a way.

When Gabriel explained to Mary the magnitude of carrying Jesus, he told her God will give him the throne of his father David. This would have been significant to Mary. She grew up learning about the great king David and how God promised to establish a kingdom from his offspring. The news must have been surprising as it would be fulfilled through her.

Jesus proved himself as Mighty God when he entered the world.

The Messiah came to this world humbly as a baby. He was born of a virgin. No other man had been born to a woman who had never been with a man. He gave up his divine privileges and humbled himself as he came as a human. All because he knew that in order for God's people to be forgiven of their sins, he must come to save them and cover them. Only a Mighty God would do such a beautiful thing.

Do you truly believe that your sins are forgiven by our Mighty God or do you walk from a place of shame or guilt for the mistakes you have made? Trust that you are made clean. Your sins are forgiven and you are made holy and blameless in the Lord's sight. Give our Mighty God the glory.

Prayer

Dear Lord, thank you for sending Jesus as a humble baby to show the world your power. Help us to see the beauty and power of the birth into a manger. Amen.

DAY ELEVEN

John 3:16

John 1:1-5

What has shaped your view of God? How has church shaped your view of God? Maybe your view has been shaped by the way that Christians are portrayed in our country. He came as a baby, but proved himself to be Mighty God. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and to be called Son of God.

John wrote in John 3:16, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."

As Mighty God, Jesus came to reveal the Father to humanity. Man's concept of God had become diluted by the influence of other nations. Jesus came to show that God is a loving Father, who wants our hearts, not a dictator who seeks to oppress. Man's idea of "mighty" caused the people to wander from seeking God. Jesus' purpose was to lead God's children back to him. While he came humbly as a baby to a virgin, he had already existed with his Father in heaven.

John describes Jesus as the Word. He shows us that Jesus existed long before he came to earth. John reminds us that all things were made through Jesus. Which means that you and I are made by Jesus as well. Our Mighty God made every part of you and knows you inside and out. His light outshines the darkness. Because of Jesus, those who believe are saved from eternal death. Our Mighty God gave us access to a loving Father and through him, we are made holy and blameless.

Only because of Jesus' deity can we live eternally with our Mighty God.

I challenge you to look to Jesus to see God as a loving Father who wants your heart. He wants to heal you and make you whole.

Prayer

Dear Lord, thank you for giving your only Son to bring us into a right relationship with you. May we remember the depth of the love you have for us. Amen.

DAY TWELVE

Luke 8:40-48

Matthew 4:23-24

Have you ever had a leader who led with authority, lording their power over their subordinates? Jesus did not use his power as Mighty God to rule in an authoritative manner. Instead he used his power to show compassion on the hurting.

During his ministry on earth, Jesus demonstrated his deity by healing people wherever he went. The first miracles of healing began shortly after he called his disciples to walk with him. Everywhere Jesus walked, crowds flocked to him to be healed.

On the way to heal the daughter of a prominent man in the community, Jesus healed a woman who had been bleeding for twelve years and could not find a doctor to help her. Her desperation caused her to seek Jesus out. In the midst of the crowd, she reached out and touched the hem of Jesus' garment. Immediately, she was healed. When Jesus asked who was the one who touched him, she bravely made herself known. Then with great compassion, Jesus told her "because of your faith, you are healed."

He could've said, "I'm on my way to heal someone else. I'll get to her later." But Jesus doesn't do that. Jesus is unlike any other. He welcomes the interruptions to demonstrate his ability to do it all, as Mighty God.

So what is causing pain or suffering in your life today? Look to Jesus as Mighty God to be the balm for your soul.

Prayer

Dear Lord, thank you for showing us through Jesus' time on earth that we can trust him to heal us. Help us to look to Jesus, our Mighty God, in seasons of suffering. Amen.

DAY THIRTEEN

Philippians 2:4-8

Colossians 2:9-10

Sit with the idea that Jesus was both man and God. Meditate on how Jesus as Mighty God humbled himself to the point of servitude. How does this reality change your idea of what it means to be like Jesus? As a servant, how can you reflect God's glory to a hurting world?

Jesus is Mighty God because of his equality with the persons of the Trinity. God exists as the Trinity which is equally the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. As we learned this week, Jesus has been since the beginning of time. He was not created, he existed with the Father at the conception of the world. Jesus was not made manifest until he came through a virgin birth, however, he still remained with the Father.

In full deity, our Mighty God humbled himself and took the form of a man. Jesus emptied himself and put on the identity of man so he could relate to all that we as humans go through. Only a Savior who has been there and done that is great enough to be Mighty God.

As part of the Trinity, Jesus' role from the beginning was one that would bring the Father's children back to him. No other being can do such a thing.

Especially when we have experienced suffering and pain in our own life can we be a reflection of God's glory to the world. Ask God to reveal to whom he wants you to reflect his glory.

Prayer

Dear Lord, thank you for Jesus' humility. May we look to Jesus as our example as we serve those around us. Amen.

DAY FOURTEEN

Ephesians 1:15-23

Luke 22:42

Have you surrendered your life to Christ? What areas are you holding back? Jesus already has the victory. Allow him the space to move into those areas where you are clenching your fist around.

We've learned how Jesus fulfilled Isaiah's prophecy as Mighty God through many passages from Jesus' time walking on the earth. We discovered that Jesus pre-existed before the beginning of time, looked at how Jesus entered the world, and discussed Jesus' deity and equality with the Trinity. Today, let's dive into what one of the most influential apostles says about Jesus.

Paul writes about Jesus' position and authority above all things. Paul made it his mission to impart to his readers the magnificent truth of what it means to surrender to our Mighty God. When we accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior, we are given resurrection power. The immeasurable power that raised Jesus from the dead is the same power that dwells in those who believe in him.

In his greatness, the Lord seated Jesus at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule, authority, power, and every name. Our Heavenly Father gave Jesus the seat of authority above every name that is named both in this age and in the one to come. Because of our position in Christ, we are also seated at the right hand of God. Only a Mighty God who loved his children would be so generous to do such a thing.

Unlike our worldly leaders, Jesus is above all authority. We can have great hope that when we call on his name, he will answer us and deliver us. However, it requires surrendering our own will to that of the Father, just as Jesus did.

Now, what's holding you back from surrendering whole heartedly to Christ? He already won the victory. Give him the space to move into those areas where you are resisting.

Prayer

Dear Lord, thank you for giving Jesus authority and placing us in him. Give us courage to surrender all we have and all we are to you. Amen.

WEEK THREE:

Everlasting Father

"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."

ISAIAH 9:6



DAY FIFTEEN

Isaiah 9:6

Why do fathers matter? Studies show “fathers who are involved with their adolescence as mothers are help raise psychologically healthier children who exhibit less delinquent behavior and obtain more education”¹ (Gladding, 2019, p. 44).

The past two weeks, we've spent expectantly waiting for the celebration of Jesus' birthday by leaning into the words of the prophet Isaiah in Isaiah 9:6.

“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.”

We've learned of how Jesus fulfills the prophecy as Wonderful Counselor and Mighty God. Now, let's study how Jesus is the Everlasting Father. This is a controversial role that Jesus holds, so slow down and take the time to talk to God. Ask him to show you the truth of his word over this next week.

Everlasting Father

The word “father” can evoke many types of emotions. Maybe you had an upbringing where your dad was super involved physically, but emotionally unavailable. Maybe your father was absent altogether. You may no longer have your dad here with you. Maybe you have been blessed to have a father who provided all your needs, both physically and emotionally. My guess is that your relationship with your dad falls within one of the former categories.

God intended for relationships on earth to mirror that of his relationship with his children. Many times we see throughout scripture that God calls those who follow him “children.” Unfortunately, because of sin, relationships are not perfect. God knew we would need an example of what it looks like to be a perfect father. Only he could provide the Everlasting Father we needed.

Characteristics of a Father

Certainly Jesus and our earthly fathers can have some similar characteristics as well. Just as an earthly father aims to protect and provide for their family, Jesus is seen as a protector and provider for his followers. Jesus calls himself the Shepherd. Under his care as Shepherd and Father, he protects and provides for his children.

Both can provide guidance, teachings, and wisdom to those under their care. As the Everlasting Father, Jesus provides guidance and teachings through the words we find in the Gospels. Jesus set an example during his time on this earth of how to glorify the Father. Jesus acted counter culturally. He spent his

Week Three: Everlasting Father

days caring for the marginalized and often looked over. Jesus was unafraid to call sin out when he saw it.

Other characteristics Jesus and a father can exhibit are love, compassion, and care towards their children or followers. His compassion is boundless. Jesus does not have pretenses or preconceived notions that may cause him to react in his flesh. Jesus is sinless and all his actions come from a place of love and acceptance.

The most powerful and important characteristic that makes Jesus the Everlasting Father was his sacrifice. Jesus made the ultimate sacrifice on the cross. Similarly, earthly fathers often make sacrifices for the well-being and future of their children. However, when they fall short, we know Jesus will be there to catch us.

Both Jesus and a father can serve as role models, setting examples for how to live a virtuous and meaningful life. Our Everlasting Father sets the perfect example. Finally, the last characteristic that both Jesus and earthly fathers can display is forgiveness. Jesus used his last breaths to make a bold statement on the cross as he cried for forgiveness for the world. The propensity to give second chances does not compare to that of our fathers here on this earth.

So What?

Which is why over the next week I want to really hone in on how Jesus fulfills the role of Everlasting Father. We can take solace in knowing that he has walked this earth and while he never biologically fathered children, he was a Father to all he encountered.

Prayer

Dear Lord, thank you for Jesus' example as the Everlasting Father. Help us cling to the promise that he is with us, even when our earthly fathers fail. Amen.

References

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DAY SIXTEEN

John 10:14-15; 18

John 10:28-30

How are you tending to your emotional health during this holiday season? The Christmas season can be a difficult time for many. Social media displays beautiful depictions of harmonious families. However, that's just it. These moments that flash across the timeline are just that... moments in time. The snapshots that people choose to display are the most polished and posed moments. What people aren't revealing are the arguments or fights that happen behind closed doors because of unmet expectations.

We are made to feel as though we must be with family during the Christmas season. Unfortunately for many women, this means sacrificing your emotional and mental wellbeing. As women in the military, it means rearranging your entire block leave to accommodate travel and parties that ultimately bring upon anxiety and grief.

Jesus sees you.

Our earthly families are messy. We come from broken families because we are naturally broken people. But Jesus says, "I and the Father are one." The Heavenly Father has entrusted Jesus with the care of his children. When you place your trust in Jesus alone, there is no one who can take you out of his hands. Jesus says that as the Good Shepherd, his sheep know his voice. A shepherd defends, protects, and provides for his sheep. Jesus does that with his children. He takes his position as Everlasting Father seriously. He uses it to lead and guide his children and does so from a place of authority.

Whether you have a good relationship with your father here on earth or not, he will fall short of your expectations. He is human. Rather than wallow in your sorrow because of his shortcomings, run to Jesus.

What expectations have you set on your earthly father that you need to surrender to the Heavenly Father? I encourage you to take them to Jesus and let him care for you as the Everlasting Father.

Prayer

Dear Lord, thank you for sending Jesus to care for your children as the Everlasting Father. Remind us to set our eyes on you regardless of the status of our earthly relationships. Amen.

DAY SEVENTEEN

Matthew 7:15-20

What makes cults attractive? Humans desire comfort. We spend our time searching for absolute truth. Cult leaders act as a father figure that provides comfort and answers our soul desires. However, as we've seen throughout history, following a human figure is dangerous.

A father teaches and guides with authority. Jesus does so with the ultimate authority as the Everlasting Father. In today's text, Jesus warns believers to beware of wolves in sheep's clothing. Jesus points to the outward expression of one's inward being. While false prophets and teachers may present "truth" in a pretty package, the motives behind them should be weighed against the truth of God's word.

We must find our anchor in God's truth to ensure we are not swayed by the things of the world. In the military, we find ourselves in cities and countries around the world. Like the flukes of an anchor bite the bottom of the sea to keep from being moved by the waves, we must bite into God's word to prevent losing our way as we live as ambassadors in a world that's not our own.

Jesus will one day return. That is the hope that we must let sink deep inside our hearts as we wait. If we keep our minds focused on Jesus and his redeeming power, pressing into his word for guidance, we will remain steady when the waves of life crash.

What do you hope for in this advent season? Look to God's word to find the encouragement you need to persevere.

Prayer

Dear Lord, thank you for the truth found in your word. Help us to dig into your word to find what our soul needs. Amen.

DAY EIGHTEEN

Matthew 14:13-21

John 14

Where do you go to have your needs met? Have you ever considered whether you rely on your own strength and ability or provide or do you rely on the Father to provide all your needs?

As a child, we need both of our parents or caregivers to provide for our needs - both physical and emotional. Because of our human nature, they often fail to meet every need. If you're a mother, be comforted, you will fail to meet all of your children's needs. You were never meant to be the sole provider.

Jesus is the one who meets our needs. After a long day of teaching, the disciples came to Jesus and cried out to him. The people were hungry. Jesus told them to bring what they had. When the disciples brought back the five loaves and two fish from a young boy, the loving Father multiplied it and fed thousands.

The story could end there and it would still be an amazing miracle. However, Jesus provided in such abundance that there were 12 baskets of food left over. One basket for each disciple.

It all began with bringing what little the crowd had to Jesus and he was the one who multiplied it.

Do you trust Jesus enough as the Everlasting Father to provide for your needs? Have you brought him what little you have to offer and allowed him to move in and through you? Bring what you have to Jesus. Let him multiply what you bring and allow his abundance to overflow from your heart to those around you.

Prayer

Dear Lord, thank you for the truth found in your word. Help us to dig into your word to find what our soul needs. Amen.

DAY NINETEEN

Hebrews 4:15-16

1 John 1:7

What sacrifices have you made to either serve in the military or stand alongside your service member as they serve? Sacrifices require laying down one's desires to meet someone else's needs.

However, the sacrifices our father makes here on earth are nothing compared to those the Father makes. Our earthly father is finite. Our heavenly Father is infinite. The example of our father on this earth should ultimately point us to the Everlasting Father in heaven.

Jesus humbly came to this earth, simply so that he could sacrifice his life in order for us to be in relationship with the Father. He took on human form so he could sympathize with us. There is nothing too big or too much for him to handle. He experienced the pain of being rejected. Jesus dealt with the deep sorrow of losing a friend when Lazarus died. Only Jesus had the power to raise Lazarus up though. Even then, knowing he would bring Lazarus back to life, Jesus still wept.

The examples we read of Jesus' humanity are designed to remind us that he has been in the trenches of this broken world as well. Jesus was tempted in the same ways we are tempted, yet he remained sinless. His sacrifice on the cross was not meant to put us to shame, but to free us from the burden of sin and shame.

When Jesus died on the cross, his blood that was shed covers our sins and makes us new. As he walked out of the tomb, he left his Spirit behind so that we have an Everlasting Father within us who has walked these same roads we walk. The same power that raised Jesus from the dead is the same power that lives within us and empowers us.

Do you see Jesus' sacrifice as one that makes you whole? Look to the cross and leave behind your shame. When you are covered with the blood of Jesus, our Everlasting Father, your sins are washed away. Will you accept this gift of grace?

Prayer

Dear Lord, thank you for the sacrifice you made to come to us in human form. Give us courage to lay aside our shame and walk in freedom knowing that you have and will accomplish the work inside our hearts. Amen.

DAY TWENTY

John 14:8-11
John 17:22-23

Did you have a role model growing up? I remember watching the Power Rangers as a kid. I wanted to be the yellow Power Ranger so badly. She exemplified courage and strength. In my childlike mind, she was the epitome of what it looked like to be a woman.

God gives us parents to model what it looks like to be a Father. Unfortunately, because of sin, his perfect model was broken. Which is why Jesus' presence on earth was necessary.

As Jesus took on the form of a man, he willingly stepped down from his place in heaven so he could show us what the Father looks like. His time on earth was spent loving the marginalized, getting down in the dirt with the outcasts, and touching the unclean. Jesus' radical love turned all of mankind's expectations upside down.

When Philip asked Jesus to show them the Father, Jesus told him that the Father dwells in him and does his works on earth. Jesus made the bold statement that he and the Father are one. The authority that has been given to Jesus is from the Father. As Jesus makes this claim, he is declaring that he is the Everlasting Father. He was sent to show the world the Father.

Jesus shows us the compassion, tender love, mercy, and care God has for his people. The good news is that Jesus doesn't stop there. In his prayer a few chapters later, we read Jesus' intent on bringing God's glory to the world. It was not for his own good, but for ours. Jesus says he gives believers the glory that the Father has given him. Why, you ask? All so the world will know that the Father sent Jesus and loves the world as much as he loved Jesus.

Do you realize how deep God's love is for you? Take a moment to let these words sink in.

Jesus came to earth to reveal the Father's glory to the world and to give us his glory all so we will understand the depth of the love the Father has for us.

Prayer

Dear Lord, thank you for sending Jesus to reveal your glory. Help us understand the depths of the love you have for us. Amen.

DAY TWENTY-ONE

John 15:4-5
Exodus 20:8-10

Is it difficult for you to sit still for long periods of time? In the military, we are constantly moving. A phrase I said when I was a manager at McDonald's was, "If you're leaning, you should be cleaning." We are hardwired to constantly be on the move.

The frantic life of moving from one activity to the next is exhausting. Life begins to become a loop of constant movement. We become so consumed in what's coming next that we don't take the time to stop and recognize the Lord's presence. When the Lord created the world and all that's within it, he gives us a blueprint. He exemplified what it looks like to stop and rest.

He even wrote it in the Ten Commandment, "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God." (Exodus 20:8-10a).

The practice of keeping the Sabbath is for our good. It offers us space to abide in our Father. Growing up my dad would set boundaries for things like how much time I spend on the phone or where and when I could go places. In a way, these boundaries set limits on us so we get the rest we need. However, unlike our earthly fathers, only the Everlasting Father can give us the rest we need. As we take our Sabbath in him, he provides all we need.

Jesus says those who abide in him will bear fruit. What kind of fruit, you might ask? The fruit of the Spirit. If we do not spend intentional time regularly abiding in God's word, how do we expect to bear any fruit?

When was the last time you sat still in the Lord's presence? It may be uncomfortable to begin with. Your mind will race. You'll be reminded of all the things you need to do. But I challenge you to stop what you're doing and look to the Father for just a few minutes each day. Abide in him and Jesus abides in the Father.

Prayer

Dear Lord, thank you for Jesus' example of abiding. Speak to our hearts as we slow down and sit with you. Amen.

WEEK FOUR:

Prince of Peace

"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."

ISAIAH 9:6



DAY TWENTY-TWO

Isaiah 9:6

Matthew 6:50

Isaiah 59:2

“Pace of mind for five minutes, that's what I crave.” —Alanis Morissette

“When the power of love overcomes the love of power the world will know peace.” —Jimi Hendrix

Music has always been a place of escape for me. An escape from the busy world around me. In some ways, it can be a place where I search for peace. Where do you search for peace?

All throughout history, world leaders have spoken of peace. Spiritual leaders have given their insight into how to achieve peace. But what if I said that we already have the answer? His name is Jesus. He is the one we are all searching for on our quests to find peace. He is the calm in the midst of the storm. The balm for the hurting soul. He is the only one who can make our paths straight and set us at peace with our heavenly Father.

This week, we will look at some ways how Jesus fulfills the prophecy that Isaiah spoke.

“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.” (Isaiah 9:6).

Prince of Peace

The definition of peace is freedom from disturbance; tranquility; a state or period in which there is no war or a war has ended. Jesus promises to be all of those things to those who believe in him.

Every time Jesus appeared to the disciples in the gospel accounts, his first words were “Do not be afraid.” He offered the sense of freedom from disturbance that nothing else could. Could you imagine being out at sea? At sea, the water is never still, visible wave action is obvious (and below the surface wave activity, while not obvious, can be visible), waves are constant (though their height and force and agitation vary), wind and spray and froth all give a sense of agitation but Jesus walks on water. The volatility of the sea does not phase Jesus. He is the Prince of Peace.

After a long day of teaching many crowds, Jesus sends his disciples off on a boat then goes into the mountains to pray. Later that night, Jesus sees his disciples in the middle of the lake struggling because of the winds. Jesus

decides to go out to help them. As he approaches the boat, the disciples are spooked. Jesus replies, "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid." (Matthew 6:50).

Peace with God

When sin entered into the world, mankind was separated from God. Throughout the Old Testament we see God pleading with his people to seek him and obey his commands. God is a holy God and cannot look upon sin.

*"It's your sins that have cut you off from God.
Because of your sins, he has turned away
and will not listen anymore." (Isaiah 59:2 NLT)*

Therefore, we needed a Messiah who would take our sins upon him so we may have peace with God again. Jesus became that sacrifice when he bore the sins of the world on his shoulders. In love, he obediently took the cup that would save our souls and join us back with the Father.

So What?

Because of sin, we were separated from God. When Jesus died on the cross, the curtain of separation was torn apart. The wall that separated God from his children was broken because of Jesus.

What great news for you and I. We no longer have to worry about doing enough or being enough to gain favor with God. We simply have to place our trust in Jesus and walk faithfully with him. He has already done it for us.

Prayer

Dear Lord, thank you for Jesus' sacrifice. In times when we feel guilt or shame, remind us that we are no longer separated from you because of what Jesus already did on the cross. Amen.

DAY TWENTY-THREE

John 16:32-33

What threatens your peace? This week, another horrific racially motivated shooting occurred in our country. These acts of hatred and vitriol are becoming the norm in America. Just last week, there were two school related shootings in the next county over. I am afraid to send my kids to school in fear that they may not return home. “The angst that comes with a terrorist attack or random violence can knock us on our knees in fear because of the unpredictable, chaotic nature of such pain” (Neff and McMinn, 2020, p. 89). How do we contend with the fear that lingers in the midst of an unpredictable world?

Our hope is in Jesus. Before he was crucified, he told his disciples they would be left alone. One thing I love about Jesus is that he doesn’t just stop there. He said, “I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33). Our peace is found in Jesus, not in the things this world has to offer.

The world offers peace in many shapes and forms. When I deployed, I felt threatened unless I was carrying my weapon. We wouldn’t carry them on a daily basis because we were located on a small forward operating base (FOB) inside of a larger base. Only when we left the FOB did we take our weapons. I felt a heightened sense of fear the entire time I was on our FOB. The fear of being attacked always lingered in the back of my mind.

Jesus’ presence with us is all the peace we need. However, if we look outside of ourselves to what the world has to offer in search of peace we will be disappointed. We must stop and acknowledge the presence and power of the Holy Spirit within us and allow his peace to pervade us.

What fear is crippling you right now? Write it down and take it to Jesus. Tell him about it. Ask him to be near you in your fear. The fear may not go away, but we can have peace knowing our Prince of Peace is with us.

Prayer

Dear Lord, thank you for your promise of peace. When we feel afraid, remind us to look to Jesus for the peace we need. Amen.

References

Neff, M. A., & McMinn, M. R. (2020). *Embodying integration: A fresh look at Christianity in the therapy room*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP.

DAY TWENTY-FOUR

John 14:27

What storm in your life do you need to have calmed? As I write this very topic, my children sit alongside me. The school day was cut short because of another hurricane that bounded toward us. The threat of severe damage does not directly affect us, thankfully, but I am reminded of those who live in the direct path of the storm's destruction.

Sometimes life can feel as though we are living in the direct path of the storm. When storms like a hurricane, a blizzard, or a tornado plow through cities, the towns are left devastated and people left to pick up the pieces. However, if you know anything about storms, right in the middle of the storm is called the eye. The eye of the storm is the most peaceful place to be. They are marked by sunny skies and no winds. Meanwhile, looming around the corner are gusts of damaging winds that threaten to destroy anything along its path.

Deployments come where you must leave your family to serve abroad for your country. Unexpected PCS's rip us from the established community we've been planted in. Unfavorable paperwork leaves us feeling hopeless for a promotion. A medical diagnosis that may threaten your career.

Regardless of where we find ourselves in the storm, Jesus promises to give us peace like that found in the eye. As Jesus told his disciples "Peace I leave with you" just before he was crucified, he promises to give you peace in your circumstance as well.

When everything around you seems to be swirling around, stop and look to Jesus. Christmas time brings about many activities, but let's not forget what it is all about. You have to intentionally stop what you're doing, put the phone down, turn off your notifications, even if only for a few minutes, and look to Jesus. Call out to him and plead for him. "Jesus, I need you." Allow him to fill you the peace that only he provides.

Prayer

Dear Lord, thank you for the peace that Jesus promises to leave with us. Remind us to stop and look to Jesus to find the peace we so desperately need. Amen.

DAY TWENTY-FIVE

Ephesians 2:11-22

Think about a time when you felt isolated because of your differences. Maybe you were told you couldn't do something because you are a woman. Maybe you were outcasted because of your height, whether too short or too tall. Maybe you were discriminated against because of the color of your skin.

Paul writes to the Ephesians about how Jesus breaks the wall of hostility between all of our differences. In Christ, we are all one.

The Jews and Gentiles did not intermingle. Sounds like the pre-Civil Rights era, if you ask me, but I digress. Paul explained that when Christ came, he demolished the separation. Now those who were far off, Gentiles, are now fellow citizens of the household of God. The "others" that once were outcasted are now brothers and sisters in Christ. His sacrifice brings peace and reconciliation between man and God, Paul says.

"Well, what does that have to do with me?" you might ask. No longer does the world get to dictate your position. When you are part of God's family, you belong to a family from all nations and cultures. If you have been "othered" at any time in your life, this great news should set you free. If you have been the one that places others beneath you, this news should convict you. Regardless of your stance, Jesus' blood covers all and brings peace where it seems impossible.

As we look to Jesus this Christmas morning, think about how his blood brings peace and reconciliation. Ask him to show you where you have fallen short of seeing others as he sees them.

Prayer

Dear Lord, thank you for Jesus' blood that reconciles. Help us to have eyes to see others as you see them. Amen.

Conclusion

"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."

ISAIAH 9:6



As we conclude our 25-day Advent Bible Reading Plan, we find ourselves standing at the intersection of faith and strength, reflecting on our unique journey as Christian military women and wives. Our quest began with a simple yet profound question: "What are you waiting on?" These words have served as our guiding light, leading us through the intricate tapestry of Advent—a season of expectant hope, reflection, and renewal uniquely experienced by those who serve in the military.

Throughout this exploration, we have uncovered the multifaceted nature of Jesus' character, delving into the heart of His purpose and the profound implications of His birth. Together, we've journeyed through each day, drawing inspiration and wisdom from the keywords and phrases illuminating our path.

Seeking Counsel in Service

We learned that our need for good counsel is ever-present in our daily lives and the unique challenges we face as Christian military women. Transitions, like arriving at a new duty station, often require guidance. In Jesus, we discovered the ultimate Counselor who invites us to bring our cares and concerns to Him, especially in the context of our military service.

In a world filled with demands and distractions, we contemplated the significance of finding rest in Jesus, especially as military women. As the Wonderful Counselor, He invites us to take His yoke and discover the rest that our souls deeply need, even in service.

Our service often exposes us to the challenges and sorrows of the world. We explored the notion that nothing is too insignificant to bring to Jesus, especially our afflictions and grief. We were encouraged to entrust our burdens to the Lord, recognizing that He carries them compassionately.

Seeking Wholeness in Jesus in The Midst of Duty

Our quest for wholeness led us to confront the idols and distractions that often draw us away from the Father, even within the military context. We were challenged to look to Jesus as the source of true satisfaction, allowing Him to fill us with the delight of His presence even while serving our country.

We acknowledged that as Christian military women, we continually need guidance in our daily lives and the unique challenges posed by military service. We recognized the Holy Spirit as our guide, revealing where we fall short and helping us become more like Jesus in the military environment.

Our journey prompted us to examine our allegiance and devotion, especially in the context of military service. We affirmed that our true loyalty lies in surrendering our hearts and lives to Jesus, acknowledging His worthiness of our trust and commitment, even amidst the demands of military duty.

We were challenged to wholeheartedly believe in Jesus as the "I Am," the eternal and unchanging God, even amid the challenges of military service. This required us to place unwavering trust in His divine nature, knowing He is with us in all circumstances.

Jesus Sees You in Military Life

We explored the profound revelation of Jesus as the Mighty God, understanding His authority to forgive sins, dispel shame and guilt, and reveal the heart of the Father, all of which are deeply relevant in our military service. We marveled at His compassion for the hurting and broken, even within the military community. We recognized His willingness to empty Himself, taking on the identity of humanity to relate to our struggles and those of our fellow service members.

We celebrated the immeasurable power that raised Jesus from the dead, understanding that this same power resides in those who believe in Him, even in the unique challenges of military service. We also acknowledged God's role as our perfect Father, providing the love, care, and eternal presence our hearts yearn for, especially when separated from loved ones due to military duty.

Our journey concluded with the beautiful reminder that Jesus sees us, even as Christian military women serving our country. His compassionate gaze is always upon us, offering comfort and companionship in our moments of need, whether on deployment or in the daily rigors of military life.

In Conclusion

In answering the question, "What are you waiting on?" we have discovered that our waiting is not in vain. It is a season of transformation, a time to renew our focus on Jesus, allowing His character to shape our lives and empower us to serve our country with hope, purpose, and unwavering faith.

As we bring this Advent reading plan to a close, we do so with hearts filled with gratitude and a renewed perspective tailored to our unique journey as Christian military women. May we carry with us the lessons learned and the truths discovered. May we seek Jesus as our Counselor in military service, find rest in His grace amidst our duties, embrace His guidance in the military environment, declare our allegiance to Him, and bask in His identity as the Everlasting Father, even when separated from our families.

May this Advent season and the insights gained from our journey be a source of blessing and inspiration, guiding us throughout the year ahead as Christian military women and drawing us ever closer to the heart of our Savior, even within the unique challenges of military service.

Merry Christmas from the military women and wives at Planting Roots!





Planting Roots is a nonprofit organization of women in uniform and military wives helping others grow in their faith through resources, events, and community.

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