

Advent 2020 | A Study Guide

Westminster Presbyterian Church

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called:
WONDERFUL COUNSELOR, MIGHTY GOD,
EVERLASTING FATHER, PRINCE OF PEACE. (Isaiah 9:6-7)

WONDERFUL COUNSELOR | Nov 29, 2020

NT reading: John 4:1-24
Bonus OT reading: Isaiah 40:1-2

God does not hide his compassionate heart from us. He sees our present situation with the reminders of what we've lost and what we're waiting for.

פלא יועץ

Pe'le Yo-eitz

- What does the name “Wonderful Counselor” mean?
- How does the story of the woman by the well reveal truth about who Jesus is?
- How does Jesus demonstrate his willingness understand our suffering?
- If you were completely honest, what have you been waiting for?
- How do you ask (and trust) God for his advice? Or his tender presence?

MIGHTY GOD | DEC 6, 2020

NT reading: Luke 8:22-31
Bonus OT reading: Psalm 45

Jesus revealed the power of heaven to resolve the physical problems we face. At the same time, these demonstrations sought to remove the separation between man and God. Every act of God shows us more about who he is and how much he loves us.

אל גבור

El Geebor

- How do the two stories of Jesus in the boat and on the shore demonstrate his strength?
- Jesus is indeed our champion and the protagonist to our story. What (or who) has Jesus defeated?
- Why should we continue to trust in God's supreme strength?
- What are we to do when we ask for God to “show up” and it seems like he doesn't? Is he still mighty to you?
- How does God share his strength with his people?

ETERNAL FATHER | DEC 13, 2020

NT reading: 7:11-17

Bonus NT reading: Luke 15:11-32

Throughout the Old Testament, God's people knew him as their rescuer, parent, law-giver, provider. In birthing a nation and setting them apart to be distinct, he brought his vision for their personal and community lives. Jesus demonstrates the same parental care as he cast a vision for the Kingdom his followers would inherit. As he testified, "whoever has seen me has seen the father," he uniquely offered to all a forever-family under God's forever-care.

אָבִיעַד

A'vee Ad

- What is the difference between an earthly father and an eternal, heavenly father?
- How does Jesus demonstrate the heart of the father when restoring the widow's son to life? (Lk 7)
- How does Jesus provide radical leadership in your life? How has he shown himself to be trustworthy – when earthly fathers are fallible?
- What is the vision that Jesus has for all of God's children?
- Do you feel the affection of your heavenly father? How can you entrust your life into his loving care?

PRINCE OF PEACE | DEC 20, 2020

NT reading: John 19:1-11

Bonus NT reading: Romans 5:1

While Jesus never ascended a throne on earth, he nonetheless possesses the authority and royal position as prince – the true Son of a King. His rule however is not to expand dominion and subjugation. It's a kingdom of peace – true, eternal satisfaction and wholeness.

שָׂר־שָׁלוֹם

Sar Shalom

- What does the word peace mean in Scripture?
- What are some examples of Jesus' life where he restores or makes someone whole again?
- How does Jesus satisfy the requirement of God's law in order to bring people peace?
- Do you possess this kind of peace? If not, what keeps you from experiencing peace?
- How might you find hope TODAY in receiving the peace that Jesus has promised?