



WONDERFUL COUNSELOR † MIGHTY GOD
EVERLASTING FATHER † PRINCE OF PEACE

A STUDY GUIDE FOR
Families & Adults
NOVEMBER 29 - DECEMBER 25, 2020

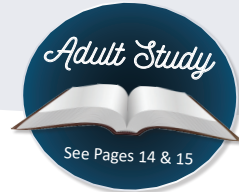


About Advent Adventure

Children of all ages can experience the Advent season through story, questions, activities, and service.

If you participated in our November 29th **"Advent Adventure"** event, you received a bag of supplies to help in each week's activities. If you were not able to attend, please feel free to use these instructions, gather the listed supplies, and do the activity anyway!

While the Advent Bags are for families to complete together, we still want to stay in community with each other during Advent. Please share your Advent activities and service opportunities by posting them on Facebook, adding [#wpcAdvent2020](#), and tagging Westminster Presbyterian Church.



⁶ 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



What does your name mean?

Take some time and look up the meaning of everyone's name in your family.

This Advent we are going to be taking some time to look and reflect on Isaiah 9:6. Isaiah was a prophet in the Old Testament that foretold Jesus' birth. He told us several names that Jesus would be called. Read Isaiah 9:6 and see the names. *see page 2*

Question

What is a counselor?

WONDERFUL COUNSELOR

WOMAN AT THE WELL



Answer A counselor is someone who listens to your problems and gives advice.



4 Now Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard that he was gaining and baptizing more disciples than John—² although in fact it was not Jesus who baptized, but his disciples. ³ So he left Judea and went back once more to Galilee.

⁴ Now he had to go through Samaria. ⁵ So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶ Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon.

⁷ When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "**Will you give me a drink?**" ⁸ (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.)

⁹ The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.)

¹⁰ Jesus answered her, "**If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water.**"

¹¹ "Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? ¹² Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?"

¹³ Jesus answered, "**Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.**"

¹⁵ The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water."

¹⁶ He told her, "**Go, call your husband and come back.**"

¹⁷ "I have no husband," she replied.

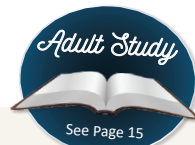
Jesus said to her, "**You are right when you say you have no husband. ¹⁸ The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true.**"

¹⁹ "Sir," the woman said, "I can see that you are a prophet. ²⁰ Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem."

²¹ "**Woman,**" Jesus replied, "**believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²² You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³ Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. ²⁴ God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.**"

²⁵ The woman said, "I know that Messiah" (called Christ) "is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us."

²⁶ Then Jesus declared, "**I, the one speaking to you—I am he.**"



Reflection

Jesus is our Wonderful Counselor! It means that we can know Him personally and not just know about Him, so we can trust Him to listen to our problems and guide us in the right direction. We know that Jesus is listening because the Bible tells us to pray to Him about things that worry us.

Take some time as a family and reflect how Jesus is the Wonderful Counselor in your lives.



Prayer

Pray and thank God for sending His Son, Jesus, to be our Wonderful Counselor.



Activity

Names of Jesus Advent Calendar Chain

SUPPLIES: (provided at *Advent Adventure) or gather strips of card stock with names of Jesus, glue or tape.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Starting with paper #25 at the top, make a loop and glue or tape the piece of paper together.
2. Alternate numbers to form a paper chain.
3. Each day remove a link and read the verse on the paper.

*Supplies were given out at Advent Adventure or if you did not attend Advent Adventure scan the QR code with your smart phone for printable files or you can visit https://convertkit.s3.amazonaws.com/landing_pages/incentives/000/462/983/original/Jesus_Chain_Instructions.pdf?1572574164



Service Idea

Gather paper, markers and a Bible and make Christmas cards for our soldiers overseas (you can include encouraging Bible verses).



For more information about A Million Thanks and for sample letters scan the QR code or visit <https://amillionthanks.org/letter/>



Manger Project

If you were able to join us for our Advent Adventure, you had the wonderful opportunity to build a manger as a family. If you were not able to attend and want details on how to build your own manger, contact Becky Odum at beckyodum@wpcspartanburg.org.

This week, each person in the family can place hay in the manger as they share how Jesus is our Wonderful Counselor.



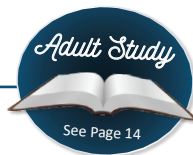
Have someone in your family read Isaiah 9:6 *see page 2*

What is the second name Isaiah tells us that Jesus will be called?

MIGHTY GOD!

Read Luke 8:22-25

How is Jesus Mighty God in this story?



Think of some things you would consider mighty. Maybe some animals? A mountain? A storm? When we think of things that are mighty we think of strong, big things, but how did Jesus enter the world?



Jesus, our Mighty God, entered the world as a little baby. A baby that was born in a stable and laid in a manger. When we first think of mighty we don't think about a little baby.



JESUS CALMS THE STORM

²² One day Jesus said to his disciples, “**Let us go over to the other side of the lake.**” So they got into a boat and set out. ²³ As they sailed, he fell asleep. A squall came down on the lake, so that the boat was being swamped, and they were in great danger.

²⁴ The disciples went and woke him, saying, “Master, Master, we’re going to drown!”

He got up and rebuked the wind and the raging waters; the storm subsided, and all was calm. ²⁵ “**Where is your faith?**” he asked his disciples.

In fear and amazement they asked one another, “Who is this? He commands even the winds and the water, and they obey him.”

Reflection

The Mighty God made himself human and came to earth to save us. Jesus is stronger and more powerful than we can ever imagine. Even the wind and the rain obey him! Even more than that, he has defeated death so that we can have eternal life with him forever!



Prayer

Pray and thank God for sending His Son, Jesus, to be our Mighty God.



Activity

Mighty God Ornament

SUPPLIES: (provided at Advent Adventure) or gather ribbon, scrabble tiles spelling out "Mighty God", twine, glue gun and glue sticks.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Lay out your thickest piece of ribbon and place the scrabble tiles on the ribbon to spell out "Mighty God". Leave some space at the top for the bow and to fold over.
2. Hot glue scrabble tiles and bow on the ribbon.
3. Tie a piece of twine in a circle and put through the top of the ribbon.
4. Fold over the ribbon and glue it down.

**Feel free to get more Scrabble Tiles and ribbon and make other names of Jesus ornaments as well.*



Service Idea

Compassion Tree

Compassion International is a wonderful ministry that WPC supports. This year there is a tree in the Narthex full of ornaments each representing donation options to help those in need such as providing water filters, bathroom and hygiene supplies, Bibles for children and more. When you are at church, grab an ornament and make a difference in a child's life this Christmas.



To learn more about Compassion scan the QR code or visit <https://www.compassion.com/>



Manger Project

This week, each person in the family can place hay in the manger as they share how Jesus is our Mighty God.



Can you think of anything that will last forever?

Forever is a long time and so hard for us to wrap our minds around.

Read Isaiah 9:6 (see page 2) and see what the third name Jesus is called.

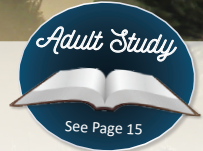
EVERLASTING FATHER

Everlasting Father or some versions might say Eternal Father.
What does everlasting mean?

~

It means something that will last forever and forever.

God always has been and always will be. There is no beginning to God and no end.



Read Luke 7:11-17



See how this story shows
us Jesus as Everlasting Father.

JESUS RAISES A WIDOW'S SON

¹¹ Soon afterward, Jesus went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd went along with him. ¹² As he approached the town gate, a dead person was being carried out—the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. And a large crowd from the town was with her. ¹³ When the Lord saw her, his heart went out to her and he said, “Don’t cry.”

¹⁴ Then he went up and touched the bier they

were carrying him on, and the bearers stood still. He said, “Young man, I say to you, get up!” ¹⁵ The dead man sat up and began to talk, and Jesus gave him back to his mother.

¹⁶ They were all filled with awe and praised God. “A great prophet has appeared among us,” they said. “God has come to help his people.” ¹⁷ This news about Jesus spread throughout Judea and the surrounding country.



Reflection

Most people put Christmas trees up in their house for Christmas. Christmas trees are evergreen trees. While they don’t last forever, they do stay green all year long (unlike trees whose leaves turn colors and fall off). Every time you look at your Christmas tree this week, think about how Jesus is our Everlasting Father.



Prayer

Pray and thank God for sending His Son, Jesus, to be our Everlasting Father.



Activity

Christmas Tree Canvas

SUPPLIES: (provided at Advent Adventure) or gather a canvas, names of God scrapbook paper, Christmas scrapbook papers, star, glue and scissors.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Begin by gluing the Names of God scrapbook paper onto the canvas. You can cut slits into the paper and fold it over the canvas.
2. Cut the Christmas paper into various lengths of strips.
3. Cut a trunk out of the scrapbook paper as well.
4. Beginning with the longest strip of paper and glue it on the canvas. Continue to glue strips of paper to make a Christmas Tree.
5. Add the star and trunk.



Service Idea



As a family, go to a store (Wal-Mart, grocery store, etc.) and buy several gift cards. Then hand them out to people in the store. You can always give one to the cashier too!

Don't forget to wish everyone a Merry Christmas!



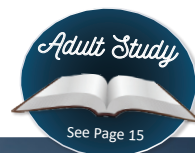
Manger Project

This week, each person in the family can place hay in the manger as they share how Jesus is our Everlasting Father.



What is peace?

What are some things you think of when you think of peace?



Many people think of a dove as a symbol of peace.

PRINCE OF PEACE

Read Isaiah 9:6 (see page 2)

What is the last name Isaiah tells us Jesus will be called?

Read Luke 22:47-53

How does this passage show us how Jesus is the Prince of Peace?



This story takes place as Jesus was being arrested and was getting ready to be taken away and crucified.

JESUS HEALS SERVANT'S EAR IN GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE

⁴⁷ While he was still speaking a crowd came up, and the man who was called Judas, one of the Twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him, ⁴⁸ but Jesus asked him, “**Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?**”

⁴⁹ When Jesus' followers saw what was going to happen, they said, “Lord, should we strike with our swords?” ⁵⁰ And one of them struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his right ear.

⁵¹ But Jesus answered, “**No more of this!**” And he touched the man's ear and healed him.

⁵² Then Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the temple guard, and the elders, who had come for him, “**Am I leading a rebellion, that you have come with swords and clubs? ⁵³ Every day I was with you in the temple courts, and you did not lay a hand on me. But this is your hour—when darkness reigns.**”

Reflection

In the old days, if there were two kings, one king (usually the weaker one) might send another king (the stronger one) a peace offering. A peace offering would let the other king know that the first king did not want to fight with the other nation, but to live peacefully. The Bible tells us that God is the King of Kings.

The King of Kings, who is all mighty, sent His one and only Son as a peace offering for us. Because of Jesus' birth, death, and resurrection, we are able to live peacefully with God forever!



Prayer

Pray and thank God for sending His Son, Jesus, to be our Prince of Peace.



Manger Project

This week, each person in the family can place hay in the manger as they share how Jesus is our Prince of Peace.



Activity

Dove Bird Feeder

SUPPLIES: (provided at Advent Adventure) or gather ¾ cup flour, 1 envelope unflavored gelatin, 4 cups birdseed, dove cookie cutter, straw, ribbon 3 tbsp. corn syrup, ½ cup water, cookie sheet, cooking spray, waxed paper, other cookie cutters.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. In a large mixing bowl, combine flour, water, gelatin and corn syrup.
2. Add birdseed to the mixture and stir in well.
3. Line a large cookie sheet with waxed paper. Coat the wax paper and the cookie cutters well with cooking spray (you can also coat your hands with cooking spray).
4. Place the cookie cutters on the waxed paper pan and spoon the birdseed mixture into the cookie cutters. Press the mixture down firmly into the cookie cutters.
5. Use the straw to punch a hole into the mixture. Make sure the hole goes all of the way through and leave the straw in the ornament, so that the mixture will dry around the hole. This is where you will tie your ribbon to hang the ornament.
6. Leave the molds to dry for 2-3 hours. Then, gently remove the molds and straws.
7. Leave the ornaments to cure overnight.
8. Tie the ribbon through the hole in the ornaments and place on a tree outside. What kind of birds come and enjoy the treat?



Service Idea



Blessing Bags

Make blessing bags to hand out when you see a homeless person or someone in need. Talk as a family about what items might be helpful to someone who doesn't have a home, especially in winter. Some suggestions are...

socks, hand warmers, water, crackers, Slim Jims, Vienna Sausages, fruit cocktail, chapstick, deodorant, toothbrush, and toothpaste. Gather these items and put them all in a gallon size baggie. Don't forget to include

scripture verses (Psalm 46:1, Psalm 55:22, 1 Peter 5:7, John 14:27, or some of your favorite verses) and pray for the people who will receive these bags! Then keep them in your car and hand them out when you see someone in need.





Read Luke 2:1-21

THE BIRTH OF JESUS

2 In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ² (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³ And everyone went to their own town to register.

⁴ So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵ He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

²¹ On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise the child, he was named Jesus, the name the angel had given him before he was conceived.



Prayer

Take turns going around and thanking God for your many blessings!



Activity

Happy Birthday Jesus!

SUPPLIES: (provided at Advent Adventure) or gather cake mix, icing, candle, egg, water, cake pan, oven, and lighter.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Bake and ice a cake to celebrate Jesus' birthday!
2. Light the candle and sing Happy Birthday to Jesus!
3. Thank God for the Birth of Jesus and enjoy the party!



Service Idea

We have been so blessed with gifts, let's bless others! As a family, decide which local ministry you want to bless, then fill your manger up with items to support them, and take your manger to the ministry.

Some ideas are TOTAL Ministries, Soup Kitchen, The Hope Center for Kids, and Carolina Pregnancy Center (you can check their websites for items they need as well as drop off times).

"You will be made rich in every way. Then you can always give freely. We will take your many gifts to the people who need them. And they will give thanks to God"

† 2 Corinthians 9:11



Manger Project

WONDERFUL COUNSELOR

NOVEMBER 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.

Questions

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

MIGHTY GOD

DECEMBER 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.

Questions

1. How do the two stories of Jesus in the boat and on the shore demonstrate his strength?
2. Jesus is indeed our champion and the protagonist to our story. What (or who) has Jesus defeated?
3. Why should we continue to trust in God's supreme strength?
4. 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?
5. How does God share his strength with his people?



ETERNAL FATHER

DECEMBER 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 the 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.

PRINCE OF PEACE

DECEMBER 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.

Questions

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

Questions

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



Advent

NOVEMBER 29 - DECEMBER 25, 2020



WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Children's Ministries