

HOME CHURCH GUIDE

- + **START** “Breaking the Ice” question (group facilitator)
- + **CHECK-INS:** Introduce, check-in
- + **CARE:** Needs in the group
- + **COMPASSION:** What is the group planning?
Are you inviting your neighbours to join in?
- + **GROUP ANNOUNCEMENTS** Church-wide, group-only
- + **DIG IN:** Discuss questions as a group
- + **END / HOMEWORK:** Final questions, prayer huddles for personal requests. Consider breaking into small groups (huddles) of 2-4, by gender, if large enough.

GENERAL REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION:

1. As you reflect on Sunday’s message, what principle or insight stands out as being particularly helpful, insightful, or difficult to grasp?
2. If the message had to be re-delivered, what two points or ideas would you encourage the speaker to include no matter what?
3. What’s one thing from this message that you hope we talk about as a group?
4. Was there one thing that you most agreed or disagreed with from this message? What was it and why?
5. Read the scripture.
 - + Reflecting on these verses, what strikes you most? Why?
 - + What is most challenging in these verses? Encouraging? New?
 - + If these verses were applied to our culture today, how would it change?
6. When and where do you struggle the most with [whatever issue(s) this message raised]?
7. If you were to incorporate this truth into your own life, how would the next week be different?
8. Describe your life one year from now if you consistently applied this truth.

PRAYER:

honest advent counselor + father

“For that which He has not assumed He has not healed.”

—Gregory of Nazianzus (4th Century Church Father).

Jesus revealed as the Wonderful Counselor assumes the whole of our existence in order to heal the whole of our existence. He became human so we would know He had nothing to hide. He lived in a complicated world so He could relate to the complexity of our world. His name is God-with-us so we would know we are prized. Through the Incarnation, we find a space where we are seen, heard, known, and prized as we experience healing and move towards holistic restoration in order to discover the scandalous revelation that we are not orphans but sons and daughters of the Everlasting Father! He is forever tied to us and we are forever tied to him. We can never not be tied to him. This is our inheritance as the beloved offspring of the Maker of all things!

Isaiah 9:6, New International Version

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.

Hebrews 2:16-18, The Message

It’s obvious, of course, that he didn’t go to all this trouble for angels. It was for people like us, children of Abraham. That’s why he had to enter into every detail of human life. Then, when he came before God as high priest to get rid of the people’s sins, he would have already experienced it all himself—all the pain, all the testing—and would be able to help where help was needed.

John 1:1-3, New International Version

The Word Became Flesh

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.