



2020
CHRISTMAS
Turn off the Darkness

EVERLASTING FATHER

[*Isaiah 9:6*](#)

SERMON SUMMARY ...

As Isaiah looks forward to the coming Light, he gives the messiah four different names: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace. This week focuses on the title Everlasting Father. Any time we link fatherly-ness to God, a myriad of emotions bubbles up. Some of us had amazing fathers and we celebrate that. But many people experience great pains that stem from their relationship, or lack thereof, with their fathers. But Jesus does not relate to us like our earthly fathers did or do. Jesus is fatherly in perfection. There are three characteristics of Jesus as Everlasting Father: He **Forever Forgives**, **Forever Celebrates**, and **Forever Adopts** us.

Bible Study & Discussion Questions

1. Read [Psalm 103:8-13](#)... What characteristic of God's love stands out to you? What description of his mercy and grace are harder for you to believe?

What real life applications are there to demonstrate how God is "slow to anger?"

Why is it so hard to believe that Jesus forever forgives us? Do you believe you are fully forgiven for all your sins? If not, what stands in the way (for instance, do you think God is never fully satisfied with you, or that you have to be perfect to gain His love)?

Pause & Pray over any feelings of unforgiveness; praise God for His saving grace and the sacrifice that forgives all of our sins.

2. Read [Luke 15: 11-24](#)... Do you ever think about Jesus celebrating over you or ponder His smiling face? What did the son do to receive the father's celebration?

In what ways do you believe you need to earn God's acceptance? What does it mean to you that the Father simply wants you to come home?

Pause, pray & praise God that He celebrates each time a child turns from sin, repents, and comes home to the Father.

3. Read [Ephesians 1:5](#); [Galatians 4:4-6](#); [Romans 8: 15](#) ... What does adoption mean with regards to God's affection for us? How have you projected your experience or view of your earthly father onto your Heavenly father? How can our adoption into God's family help us relate to our earthly fathers, who are imperfect reflections of our Father God?

In what ways is it challenging to recognize yourself as a child of God? Are you ever worried He might reject you from the family?

What does your position as an adopted child of God mean for your daily disciplines?

Pause & Pray that we might live as children of God.

REFLECT...

With the end of 2020 in sight, what does it mean to not have an action step, except to just sit and wonder?

Reflect on the ways Jesus has shown himself to be a Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, and/or Everlasting Father.

If you are a dad, what does Jesus' fatherly-ness mean for you? How can Jesus impact your parenting?

Pray about the "Ones" who you would like to see experience Jesus this Christmas season.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT GENESIS...

CHRISTMAS EVE ~ [RSVP ASAP](#)

- Wednesday, December 23rd – 7PM
- Thursday, December 24th – 5PM & 7PM

VIRTUAL WORSHIP GATHERINGS

- December 27th & January 3rd – VIRTUAL ONLY