



DISCUSSION GUIDE

THIS WEEK: NAMES: "Mighty God" [Isaiah 9:6]

GETTING STARTED

What is one thing you are thankful for this week and what is one thing we can pray for you this week?

Remind each other of our simple expectations for meeting together

Have you ever had a "brush with a celebrity"? (even if this person isn't "famous" to other people). Who was it, and what was this encounter like? What affect did it have on you? Why?

How do we tend to define power and greatness? Why?

QUICK REACTIONS

- How would you summarize/paraphrase the message in your own words?
- What point/idea resonated most with you? Why?
- Did you disagree with something said, or what do you think should have been added or expanded on?

QUESTIONS FROM THE MESSAGE

Isaiah prophesies 800 years before Jesus is born that his name will be "Mighty God", El-Gibor, A warrior who will fight our battles.

1. If you were an Israelite, considering they will soon be exiled by the mighty army of the Assyrians. What would your expectations be of this coming Warrior?
2. In what way does Jesus re-define all the ways we look at power, strength and might?
3. *"In Christ, God displays His power in the birth of Jesus."*
 - > As a group consider how the virgin birth displayed God's power?
4. *"In Christ, his life, death and resurrection, God displays His power."*
 - > Considering that God could have revealed Himself in whatever way He choose too. For example, He could have come as a conquering, invading King like the Assyrians, but 100x fiercer and set things straight. Why not?
 - > Read 1 Corinthians 1:18-19 together. How does Paul try to help us understand the message of God through the cross?
 - > Read Colossians 2:13-15 together. What is the real problem that God resolved with human beings? In what way does the cross disarm and shame spiritual rulers and authorities?
5. In what way does the demonstration of God's power in Christ reveal to us how we think about power, strength and might? Why is this difficult to do in a world that views power as money, status, popularity?

EXPLORE THE PASSAGE [Philippians 2:1-11]

What four qualities mark unity with Christ? (2:1)

How can Christians show the joy and unity of being in Christ in practical ways? (2:2)

What did Paul say about self-centeredness? (2:3-4)

What did Paul exhort believers to have? (2:5)

What did Christ set aside when He became a man? (2:6-8)

How did Jesus limit Himself? (2:6-8)

How was Christ fully God and fully man at the same time? (2:6-8)

How is Christ the best example of humility and unselfishness for us? (2:6-8)

Why did Christ take on the limitations of being human even though He was of the same nature as God? (2:7)

How did God exalt Jesus? (2:9)

How did Christ win sovereignty over all people and over everything? (2:10)

What confession will every person make? (2:11)

QUESTIONS THAT HELP US UNDERSTAND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE TEXT

In what ways does our trust/union in Christ get revealed in the way we live in front of others? Why does this matter?

In what ways are selfish ambition and pride at odds with Jesus and His will for us? How is it at odds with forming unity in a church family? What does God do with His infinite power and privilege?

The word Paul uses for mind means to have understanding, to think, to direct your thoughts towards, to seek and aspire to a mindset that would work itself out into action.

What kind of mindset does Christ want us to have? Why?

How does Christ's example of "equality, emptying, found in appearance as a man, humility and obedience" challenge the ways we tend to look at equality, being full of ourselves, appearance, pride, power, rights and privileges?

What kinds of things do I need to lay down (petty disputes, rights,) in order to demonstrate the power of Christ?

APPLY THE PASSAGE

What do we learn about God and about ourselves in this passage?

What may God be asking you to change, do differently, repent of, pray about, as a result of engaging with this passage?

How can we pray for each other?