



**December 14 / 15**

**Luke 2:1-20**

**“Everlasting Father”**

It’s interesting how the language that Isaiah used as he prophesied about the coming Messiah was both “big” and “small”. Big in the sense that he will be a ruler, the government will be on his shoulders. He is Mighty God! But the descriptive words are also small in the sense that they are very personal. He will be our Counselor. He will bring Peace. He will be like a Father who is everlasting.

Nearly every person with a father has some kind of dad issues. But the Messiah will relate to us in a positive fatherly way, providing care and protection in all our weakness and vulnerability. Jesus, through his life, death and resurrection, shows us the heart of God our Father.

**Sermon Notes:**

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**Welcome**

- Introduce anyone new to the group.
- Ask the opening question: What is one of the strongest memories of your father or a father figure?

**Opening Prayer**

It’s important to begin with prayer. Pray that God would help each person hear exactly what they need through your time together.

**The Future of these Discussion Guides**

OK, so I’ve hinted at this over the past few weeks. Beginning with the series through the Gospel of John that we are starting the first weekend of 2020, we will not be providing this Discovery Bible Study guide. We hope that this will not dissuade you from using DBS, but will rather open up the beauty of all that can happen when God’s word, God’s Spirit, and God’s people join together. Every few weeks, we will provide a simple resource that lists the main passage for the coming weeks, as well as the full outline of how to do a DBS study. This is something you’ll be able to carry in your Bible as a reference. Early in the year, we will provide some opportunities for you to get a refresher on how to lead a DBS. 2020 is going to be great!

**Look Back**

- Over this past week, what is one way you saw God move?
- Is there someone whom you have helped take a step toward Jesus? Have you shared your story or God’s story with someone?
- Did you follow-through with a step of obedience that you shared the last time your group met?



### Look Up

It's no surprise that the Son should be seen behaving in the same way as his Father (John 5:19). Jesus is shown to be parental – even motherly – towards Jerusalem who he wants to gather into his care like a hen with her chicks. Matthew, Mark, and Luke all mention Jesus calling little children to come to him to receive their place in the kingdom. The story of the birth of Jesus shows us things about the heart of the Father, things that also reveal the heart of Jesus toward us. Jesus combines fatherly and motherly qualities in his strong, kind care for us.

- Read Isaiah 9:6-7 once and then Luke 2:1-20 together as a group.

**Did anything catch your attention as you read this passage? What did you like? What is challenging or difficult to understand?**

- What do we learn about the Father's heart in the fact that the greatest turning point of all of history began with a teenage girl giving birth to a baby?
- Have you ever looked down on yourself or something in your life that seemed small, only to discover later that God had a bigger story in mind? Have you seen Jesus do big things through something that seemed insignificant?
- How do you think the shepherds responded to the angelic choir on the one hand, and the simple setting of the birth of the Messiah on the other?

- It was over 700 years from the time Isaiah wrote until the actual birth of Jesus. It easy to begin to doubt someone's promise when it feels like they are waiting so long to keep it. What does this passage show us about the promises of God?
- Is there an area of your life where it seems like God is being slow to act?
- What do you think Mary was treasuring in verse 19?

**Read the passage again. What does it say about God? What does it say about us?**

- If you were learning the story of Jesus' birth for the first time, what do you think would be your strongest impressions?
- Jesus' birth reveals that our greatest need is for a Savior. What are some ways you can keep that truth front and center as you experience the Christmas holiday over the coming weeks?

### Look Ahead

- Take a few minutes to reflect quietly on what you have discussed.
- **How will you obey this passage?**
- **What is the name of the person you will share this passage with this week?**
- Take a few minutes to pray for one another