

JESUS FOLLOWERS LONG FOR THE KING

ADVENT: REMEMBER TO ANTICIPATE

BIG TRUTH: JESUS FOLLOWERS LONG FOR THE KING

Romans 8:19; Philippians 1:23; 3:8-14; Psalm 119:20; 42:1-2; 63:1; Isaiah 26:9; Revelation 19:16; 22:20

BIBLE VERSE: ISAIAH 9:6

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

BIG IDEAS

- We long because we are in darkness.
- We long for the King who is our deliverer.
- We long for the King who is both wisdom and might.
- We long for the King who is both eternal and peace.

BIBLE PASSAGE: ISAIAH 9:1-7

God promised a coming King to rescue His people. In Isaiah, we see a vision of this coming King who will rescue His people and make things right. Jesus followers look forward to the return of this King who will bring with Him new life forever.

ADVENT

Advent is a special celebration and contemplation of the coming of Jesus Christ that Christians participate in during the Christmas season. Advent literally means "arrival" or "coming". During Advent season God's people remember and rejoice in Jesus' first coming to save his people from their sins, while at the same time long with anticipation and expectation for his return. Advent centers on Jesus, the saving Son. He alone is the one true King!



Every student should know that:

- Jesus is the one and only King.
- Jesus came and is coming again.
- We exist for Jesus.



Every student should feel:

- The longing within their soul for the King.
- A dissatisfaction within their soul for things of the world.
- Awe and wonder that the King has come and is coming again.



Every student should strive to:

- Spend time each week with their family talking about the King.
- Memorize the Bible Verse each week.
- Tell someone else about the King who came and is coming again.



Every student should want to:

- Trust the King in the everyday struggles of life.
- See and seek Jesus more than anything else this Christmas season.
- Tell others who are lost about the good news of the King.

GUIDES AND WORKOUTS

The Guide provides a commentary page on each week's Bible verse and on each Big Idea that unpacks the Big Truth. Each week also includes a Student Workout as a resource to help the student pursue spiritual disciplines on their own. Additionally, each week has a Family Workout that helps equip parents and guardians to have spiritual conversations with their student.



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ADVENT: REMEMBER TO ANTICIPATE JESUS FOLLOWERS LONG FOR THE KING



BIBLE VERSE: ISAIAH 9:6

“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”

God promised to send the King.

“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given...”

- In the beginning, God promised to send the One who would rescue the world from its sin and brokenness.¹ God’s redemption plan was fulfilled in the coming of the Messiah, Jesus Christ. Through Isaiah’s vision and prophecy of the coming Redeemer, we get a glimpse of how God is going to fulfill His promise to mankind.
- The Redeemer would come as a child, God’s only Son. This child would be a gift given to the world and he would be God Himself coming to the earth to rescue His people. God had promised to send the Messiah to His people, and He keeps His promises.

The King holds all power and glory.

“...and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”

- Jesus came as the Son of God and took on flesh to live the perfect life that no human could ever live. Jesus came as a baby, conquered sin and death, and rose again to new life. This Redeemer has all the power and glory because He is God Himself.
- Jesus followers long for this King who is the true King and the only King who has all power and is mighty over all things. Because He is called Wonderful Counselor and Mighty God, we can know that Jesus is the one true King who rules over all.

The King is in control of everything.

“And the government shall be upon His shoulder...”

- When Isaiah prophesied about the coming Messiah, he foretold of His sovereignty and His right to reign in hearts and on earth. Jesus is the true King. He has the right to rule over the earth because He is the beginning of all things.
- He is the Redeemer of mankind and should be regarded as the supreme power over life on earth. He has control of all things and He rules over all things with wisdom and discernment. His people look forward to the day when He rules on earth as He does in Heaven.

1. 2 Samuel 7:12-13 God promised to send a “son” whose kingdom would be established forever.

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BIG IDEA #1: WE LONG BECAUSE WE ARE IN DARKNESS.²

[THIS]

Sin corrupts the entire world. In Genesis 3, Eve is tempted by the serpent, she and Adam eat of the fruit in disobedience and rebellion against the Lord, and everything is changed. God cannot be in the presence of sin, so the relationship between humanity and God is broken, as God no longer walks with His people. The relationship between humanity and creation is broken: the ground is cursed and produces thorns and thistles, making work difficult. The relationship between humans is broken: the closest human relationship—that of marriage—is damaged. Sin introduces shame into the lives of humanity and death into the world. Because of sin, we dwell in darkness. Ephesians 5:9 tells us that “the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true.” All that is good, right, and true is found in God, and we have rejected Him and chosen to walk and live in darkness instead of following His ways.

[THEREFORE]

The world lies to us and distorts our perception of what is good. How have you seen the culture around you uphold something as good that the Lord calls bad?

Since the beginning, the enemy’s lies have been that we should doubt God’s Word and that His character cannot be trusted. Isaiah 5:20 says, “Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!” We must always be on guard that the way we perceive good is in line with what God has declared to be good.

[THIS]

We experience longing because we were created for God, and because nothing else can satisfy. We were created for God, but ever since our relationship with Him was broken because of sin, we long for the restoration of this relationship. At the time of Isaiah the prophet, the Israelites are walking in rebellion against the Lord. In Isaiah 2:5, Isaiah calls them to walk in the light of the Lord. In Isaiah 8, the prophet warns that those who have rejected God will experience distress, darkness, and anguish. He says, “They will be thrust into thick darkness.” Yet, there is hope. God, in His mercy, does not leave us in spiritual darkness. Isaiah 9:2 prophesies, “The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.” This refers to the promised Messiah, the One who takes away the sin of the world, the One who darkness cannot overcome. Nothing else can solve our sin problem. Nothing else can rescue us from slavery. There is no other hope. We long because nothing else in the world can satisfy us. We long for the Lord to come again and for Him to make all things new.

[THEREFORE]

When you consider all of the brokenness in the world, what do you long for the most?

Revelation 21 foreshadows the end of the age, where Jesus sits on His throne and says, “Behold, I am making all things new.” In John’s vision, Jesus says that the dwelling place of God will again be with man. He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and death, mourning, and pain will be no more. In the new creation, we long for the restoration of all things.

Why is it significant for the Jesus follower that only God can satisfy?

The world is full of things that appear tempting. Sometimes, we can take good things and instead of using them to fuel our hope and joy in God, we try to put our hope and joy in the creature rather than the Creator. Other times, we pursue sinful things in the hope of a fleeting pleasure. We need to be aware of the temptations of the enemy who promises life but is a murderer and a liar, as John 8:44 reminds us. We need to avoid the temptation to put our hope in false saviors that cannot satisfy, like Jeremiah 2:13 warns. We need to long for and seek after God, who in John 4 promises living water, that if we drink of it we will never thirst again.

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BIG IDEA #2: WE LONG FOR THE KING WHO IS OUR DELIVERER.²

[THIS]

Isaiah 9:1-2 introduces the idea of God's light and redemption coming into the world. This truth is tied to Isaiah 8:22 and offers a hope to God's people in the midst of great anguish and darkness. The world that Isaiah speaks of refers to the nation of Israel, yet Isaiah's prophecy also speaks to the current condition of the mankind on earth. We are all born into darkness because of our sin nature. Because of this darkness, we long for a king who will rescue us from our sin. We long, just as the Israelites longed, for a Savior to redeem us from our sin and to reconcile us to God, the true Ruler of all. Inside of us all is a longing for the true King who created us and rules over us justly, extending His immeasurable grace and mercy when we least deserve it. We desire for this King to rule the world forever because in our hearts we, as His followers, have submitted to Him and love Him as our Lord and God.

[THEREFORE]

What are some of the "dark things" (brokenness) that make you long for a Rescuer?

Galatians 5:19-21 lists the works of the flesh, which are the dark things of the world. As Jesus followers, we can become overwhelmed by the darkness in the world. People do not seek God and they live for themselves rather than serving one another. Psalm 119:81 reminds us of the longing God's people have for Him and His salvation. As followers of Christ, our hearts long for His return when He will rule as the true King over all things.

What is an area of darkness in your heart or life that you long to be rescued from?

Galatians 5:19-21 and Mark 7:21-23 speak of the attitudes and behaviors that are a result of our flesh natures. Our flesh natures are the darkness of this world. Often, we live in these things instead of walking in the light of Christ. We need to be rescued from these things.

[THIS]

The nation of Israel longed for a deliverer who would rescue them from the oppression they faced in the world. Just like Israel longed for a deliverer, we look for and long for King Jesus, the great Rescuer. Jesus not only rescues us from our sin, but He is returning one day to deliver the world from the sin and darkness that control it. Isaiah prophesied of the victory God's people would experience with the coming Messiah. Jesus followers today remember the birth of Jesus because it ushered in the salvation that we all do desperately need and we look forward to His return when all things are made new and all sin and brokenness are undone.

[THEREFORE]

Why should Jesus followers long for King Jesus?

Romans 8:8 tells us that no person can please God in their flesh. We all need the salvation offered by Jesus. When we reflect upon His birth, we can do so with joy knowing that His birth brought the salvation we all desperately need. We should long for His reign as King because He is our deliverer. He delivered us from our sin debt and He will deliver us from the darkness of the world.

What does it look like practically to long for King Jesus this week?

In Colossians 3:1-2, Paul writes of believers setting their minds on the things that are above. This means that we discipline our thoughts to be focused on God's kingdom that is coming one day. By doing this, we will develop a longing for King Jesus to rule over everything because we will understand that His rule is greater than anything here on this earth.

² Isaiah 9:1-2: God's people longed for their Messiah to come and right the wrongs caused by sin and brokenness in the world. Jesus followers long for His return when He will bring with Him the new heavens and earth.

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BIG IDEA #3: WE LONG FOR THE KING WHO IS BOTH WISDOM AND MIGHT.³

[THIS]

To long for something is to desire it and to hope for it continually. In Isaiah 9:6, the prophet describes the coming King as a wonderful counselor. To be a counselor means to be full of wisdom and to rule out of this wisdom. Isaiah contrasts the darkness of the world with the wisdom of the promised King. Jesus came as this promised King, full of all wisdom. He alone acts perfectly and guides His people to the salvation He offers. Jesus followers today have experienced the promised Messiah and they look toward the second coming of Jesus when He takes His position as the true King of all things. The world is full of foolishness that leads to death and destruction. Jesus followers see this and long for a world that is ruled by King Jesus.

[THEREFORE]

What are some examples of foolishness in this world that lead you to long for King Jesus?

1 Corinthians 1:20 and 3:19 speak to the foolishness of this world. When men think they are wise and act apart from God, they reveal they are really just foolish. Jeremiah 10:21 also reminds us that people are foolish compared to God and His wisdom. It is foolishness to rely upon ourselves rather than God. It is foolishness to reject God and to choose temporal things to worship rather than the one true God.

In what specific ways do you need a “wonderful counselor” right now?

Proverbs 14:12 shows us that often we may think we know what is best, but our way leads us to death and destruction. We lack true wisdom in our flesh because our hearts are inclined toward the things of the world. The coming of Christ meant that true wisdom came to the world. We find wisdom through God’s Word and the work of the Holy Spirit inside of us because of Christ’s atoning work. Matthew 7:24 shows us the value of Jesus as our wonderful counselor.

[THIS]

Not only do Jesus followers long for a wise King, but they long for a King who is all-powerful and mighty. God’s people, the Israelites, longed for the coming Messiah whom they thought would rule in their day. Though they didn’t understand that the Messiah would come, conquer sin, and then return again one day, they did long for the true King who was almighty. Jesus is mighty in every way. There is no one more powerful than He. He is a King who controls all things and overcomes all things. Jesus followers long for this King who conquered sin, death, and hell on their behalf. They long for His eternal rule when He will usher in a new heaven and earth that have no sin or sorrow in them.

[THEREFORE]

How have you seen God’s might on display in your life?

In Ephesians 1:18-20, Paul writes of God’s might and power that was made visible to us through the life, death, and resurrection of Christ. We first see God’s might on display in our lives when we understand what our salvation required and what it means. Not only is God’s might on display in our salvation, but in the sustaining of daily life on earth as seen in Psalm 145:16-17.

In what ways are you practically in need of the King who is power and might in your life right now?

Hebrews 12:2 reminds us that the King’s power and might give us salvation, but they also work in us to make us more and more like Him every day. Every day we are in need of the power of the King to help us bring God glory with our lives. Daily we need the power of the King to help us flee sin and overcome temptation as seen in Galatians 5:16.

3. Isaiah 9:1-6: King Jesus is mighty in power and holds all authority. He is the true conqueror of all things.

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BIG IDEA #4: WE LONG FOR THE KING WHO IS BOTH ETERNAL AND PEACE.⁴

[THIS]

The King is the author and creator of time. This means He exists outside of it and its limits as Psalm 90:2 tells us. Before anything, there was God. Ephesians 1:3-4 teaches us that the King is eternal. He has always existed and will always exist. His eternal nature means that He alone can give us anything that is eternal and lasting. God alone is the only one who can bring us lasting salvation and freedom from our sin. He alone is the one who can offer us lasting life in Him. The King gives us access to God and eternal life with Him. Through the King we can be eternally forgiven and in a relationship with God forever. The King's plan has always been to rescue His people and gather them to Himself for all of eternity.

[THEREFORE]

How would taking an eternal perspective on your life change the way you live today?

In Matthew 6:33, Jesus tells His listeners to seek the Kingdom of God first. When we take on an eternal perspective, our goal will be to further the Kingdom of God because it is the only eternal kingdom and it is our eternal home. Our lives will be lived for God's glory and we will consider the way we spend our time and resources. Romans 14:8 reminds us that we are not our own, but belong to the Lord. This means we take on eternity and live for our life there instead of our life here.

How can you practically seek to trust the King's sovereignty over your life?

Job 42:2 and Isaiah 43:13 show us that God is sovereign over all things. There is nothing outside of His reach or control because He is the eternal King. He creates all things and controls all things. Because our King is over all things, we can trust His sovereignty. We can rest in Him and His plan for our lives.

[THIS]

God's people longed for peace in their land and with God. Isaiah's prophecy reveals that the King came bringing peace. The peace that the King brought was eternal peace with God. Every person is born at war with God because of their sin nature. We rebel against Him and reject Him as Lord of our lives. The King came bringing peace with Him because He is peace. He is the only one who can bring true peace. Our sinful rebellion leads to lives of struggle and strife. We struggle with the world around us and one another, yet Jesus offers eternal peace with God that can never be taken away. When Jesus came, He established a way for man to have peace with God by defeating sin. Just as Isaiah describes Jesus as the Prince of Peace, He is the giver of eternal peace to those who believe.

[THEREFORE]

What are some ways that you have experienced the peace that the King brings?

Jesus gives us peace when we have saving faith in Him as seen in Romans 5:1. This peace means we are no longer in rebellion against God, but our sin debt has been paid and we are reconciled to Him. Philippians 4:7 teaches us that the peace of the King surpasses anything we know on this earth. His peace is eternal and everlasting.

4. Isaiah 9:7-9: Jesus is the true King who is eternal and brings peace to the world.