

Christmas Decisions

Big Idea

In this week's message, Pastor Dino emphasizes that the greatest decision of Christmas is saying yes to Jesus fully and completely. When we keep our heart and focus on Jesus, He gives us help and hope, and through Him we experience joy. Jesus is our Wonderful Counselor who has a complete understanding of us, knows all about us, and still loves us completely. He is our Mighty God who we can trust to always be with us and give us strength in all our struggles. With Jesus, we have an Everlasting Father who loves us forever and deserves to be put first in our lives. And, Jesus is our Prince of Peace who reconciles all things and restores order. Jesus is our right now, real-time Savior; our source of peace and joy.

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. –Isaiah 9:6 NIV

Discussion Questions

- Talk about each of the four names for Christ mentioned in Isaiah 9:6 – Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace. Share how Jesus has helped you find joy and peace through any of these four roles.
- Who do you know that needs to connect to God through a personal relationship with Jesus? Talk about how you can share the love of God with them and help them move towards making the decision to say “yes” to Jesus.
- Discuss how well your life demonstrates your decision to make Jesus the focus of your heart. What changes might you need to make in order to better focus on Jesus and experience all that He has for you?
- Share ways to reduce the stress and busyness we often experience during the Christmas season. What are some practical ways you can intentionally focus on Jesus this week? He is the reason we celebrate!

Prayer Focus

Thank Jesus for all He has done for us through His death and resurrection as well as all He does for us daily. If you are experiencing trials or stress in your life, ask Jesus, our Mighty God, to help you through your struggles. Ask Him to help you see what you need to do in order to better focus on Him so that you can find peace and joy even in the midst of your trials. Thank Him for being your Savior.

Next Steps

Identify ways to keep your heart and focus on Jesus every day. When you need love, help, strength, and understanding, turn first to Jesus. Commit to participating in 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting let the Father know He is your first priority and use those 21 days to turn any issues in your life over to Him.

Leader Tip

Recommend that all group members begin to prepare for the upcoming 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting that begins on January 8 and encourage them to participate. Let them know that there are resources and information about prayer and fasting on our website at <http://21days.churchofthehighlands.com>.