

If you have limited time to prepare, this 3-step outline is a helpful tool for leading a small group discussion:

1. Read the text from Sunday's message.
2. What did you find most helpful/confusing/new/ that you did not understand from the message?
3. What were your big takeaways? How will you put these into practice in your life?

Getting Started

- Do some research on the internet to see what your name means and share what you discover. For example ...

The name Michael is a boy's name of Hebrew origin meaning "who is like God?". ... In the Bible, Michael is the archangel who led the other angels to victory in a war against Satan, one of only two archangels (the other is Gabriel) recognized by Jews, Christians and Muslims alike.

If your family and friends were to name you based on what they know about you, what names might they give you?

This link takes you to a site that explains the meaning of many names in the Bible.

<https://www.behindthename.com/names/usage/biblical>

Discussion

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon^[a] his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this. (Isaiah 9:6-7)

- Discuss each of these names attributed to Immanuel, the Messiah. How are our greatest needs met in the names of God? What other Scripture passages might you reference?
 1. Wonderful Counselor
 2. Mighty God
 3. Everlasting Father
 4. Prince of Peace
 - a. Ephesians 2:14
 - b. John 14:27
 - c. Philippians 4:6-7

- Read Colossians chapter 1 and see how many of these names of the Messiah are incorporated into this passage.

¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,

² To the saints and faithful brothers in Christ at Colossae: Grace to you and peace from God our **Father**.

³ We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, ⁴ since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, ⁵ because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel, ⁶ which has come to you, as indeed in the whole world it is bearing fruit and increasing—as it also does among you, since the day you heard it and understood the grace of God in truth, ⁷ just as you learned it from Epaphras our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf ⁸ and has made known to us your love in the Spirit.

⁹ And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all **spiritual wisdom and understanding**, ¹⁰ so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; ¹¹ being **strengthened with all power**, according to **his glorious might**, for all endurance and patience with joy; ¹² giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. ¹³ He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins

¹⁵ **He is the image of the invisible God**, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶ **For by him all things were created**, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. ¹⁷ **And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together**. ¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that **in everything he might be preeminent**. ¹⁹ **For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell**, ²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, **making peace by the blood of his cross**.

²¹ And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, ²² he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, ²³ if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.

²⁴ Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church, ²⁵ of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, ²⁶ the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints. ²⁷ To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. ²⁸ **Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom**, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. ²⁹ For this I toil, struggling with all **his energy that he powerfully works within me**.

Prayer