

**AMPLIFY our Weekly Message / 11.28.21**

These **discussions** and recommended **spiritual practices** are designed to help **AMPLIFY** the impact of our Sunday morning teaching from God’s Word. Choose the ones that fit best in your context.

**Sunday Discussion**

**This is designed to be an extension of our Sunday worship service. Take a few minutes to have this conversation with those who watched the worship service with you. If you watched alone, give another friend who watched alone a call and have the conversation over the phone.**

Share something that was said or sung in the worship service that resonated with you. Take a moment to pray with and for the person with whom you just shared.

**Daily Discussion**

**These are intended for conversation around the dinner table, in the car, or before bed at night (designed for ages 7 and up). Start each conversation by reading the passage listed.**

**Monday:** Read Isaiah 9:6-7. Why is verse 6 comforting? What was wrong with the world then? What is wrong with the world now?

**Tuesday:** Read Isaiah 9:6-7. In what ways have you experienced the coming of the Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace?

**Wednesday:** Read Isaiah 9:6-7. In what ways has the zeal of the Lord accomplished this already? In what ways has this not yet been accomplished?

**Thursday:** Read Isaiah 9:6-7. In response to the prophecy having come to fruition “already but not yet” we are challenged to: 1) rejoice in the already, 2) be honest about the difficulty and disappointment of the not yet, and 3) join Jesus as representatives to help make His blessings known far as the curse is found. How have you found yourself recently rejoicing in the “already”?

**Friday:** How have you found yourself recently lamenting the “not yet”?

**Saturday:** How have you found yourself recently helping make His blessings known far as the curse is found?

**Weekly Discussion**

**Spiritual friends are those who intentionally move into one another’s life to spur one another on in spiritual growth for the Glory of God.**

1. How has God encouraged, challenged or corrected you recently?
2. What’s a way that you believe God has used you recently or wants to use you this week?

**What follows are some spiritual practices that we believe could feed your soul and advance His Kingdom this week.**

### **An Inward-Focused Spiritual Practice**

**Daily spiritual discipline** – Spend some time this week reading through the story of the Bible as laid out below.

#### **Creation**

The starting point, as told to us in the opening chapters of Genesis, the opening book of the Bible, is that God, who has always existed, created humanity for relationship with himself.

He established the first man and woman in a garden paradise in which they could not only enjoy each other, in perfect harmony and joy, but enjoy Him – a perfect setting for perfect human beings to enjoy a perfect relationship with their perfect God.

#### **The Fall**

But almost from the start, things went wrong. Exercising the remarkable gift of free will with which God clothed humanity, they promptly chose to receive the gift but reject the Giver. They pushed God out of the center and arrogated to themselves the place of rule in their own lives, living life on their own terms.

#### **The Curse**

As a result of their rebellion against the God who created them for relationship with Himself, God allowed a curse to fall on the land. Genesis 3:17; Romans 8:19-22.

#### **The Prophets**

The prophets were a group of poetic messengers that God raised up to bring to light humanity's spiritual condition, and to urge rebellious humanity to turn back to him.

#### **The Promise** – message of hope through prophets

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7; 35:1-6; 11:6-9

#### **The Messiah**

Luke 2:10-14; 21:27; Matthew 11:3; Revelation 11:15; 22:1-5

These promises have been fulfilled through the Messiah in an “already but not yet” sort of way. We are challenged to respond in three ways:

1. We rejoice in the already. John 8:12; 4:13-14; 14:27; 16:33
2. Be honest about the difficulty and disappointment of the not yet. Revelation 20:20
3. Join Jesus as curse reversers, serving as His agents and representatives in this world, His sent ones, called to help make His blessings flow far as the curse if found. Matthew 5:14,16; John 7:38; 20:21; Matthew 5:9; 2 Corinthians 5:17.

### An Outward-Focused Spiritual Practice

Seek to love those God places in your path. Be intentional to share Jesus's love through word or deed with them.

With the love of Jesus in view, reach out to a neighbor or co-worker or someone in need.

Get involved with one of the Shalom of the City outreach initiatives:

<https://www.covenantpc.org/ministries/shalom-for-the-city/>

Get on our weekly prayer email (go to the "watch live" page and sign up for the prayer list) and start lifting these prayers and praises up to the Lord.