



A Better King

Advent 2020

WEEK 4: THE KING OF LOVE

Read the text: Isaiah 9:2-6, John 3:16, Romans 5:8

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shone.
You have multiplied the nation;
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as they are glad when they divide the spoil.
For the yoke of his burden,
and the staff for his shoulder,
the rod of his oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.
For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult
and every garment rolled in blood
will be burned as fuel for the fire.
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.

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that
whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Jesus is called Everlasting Father because he came to show us God the Father. He came to show us the love of God and to pour out this love into our hearts (Rom. 5:5). Whoever believes in Jesus becomes a dearly loved child of God and nothing can ever separate us from the love of God we have in Christ Jesus (Rom. 8:38-39). As his children, God calls us to love others as He has loved us (1 John 4:7-8). God wants the world to know He loves them...and His means of doing that now is through His Church, everyday Christians. He calls us to both be loved by Him *and* declare His love to others. Our understanding of God's love for us will be revealed in how we love others.

Discussion Questions:

These questions are written for DNA groups, but you can use in any setting, including missional communities. Because they were written for the intimacy of DNA friendships, you may need to adjust for larger groups.

1. If Jesus is God's gift of love to the world (Jn. 3:16), what does Jesus reveal to us about the love of the Father for us? This may seem like "basic Christianity," but nothing could be more important to remember and rehearse. Take some time sharing and reflecting on how Jesus specifically reveals the Father's love.
2. Pastor Jeff said, "God's love must be received." Have you received the Father's love for you? This happens when we first come to know His love, but we can also receive His love on a daily basis. What keeps you from really receiving His love for you? (It may be a lie you believe about yourself & God; it may be that you're focused on receiving love from someone or something else).

3. Pastor Jeff also said we give to others the love we've received. Our love for others, or lack of love, is tied to how we receive the Father's love. Take a moment to reflect on how you've loved others this week (a friend, your spouse, your kids, co-workers, someone who is hard for you to love). Where have you failed to love others? Take time to confess this to one another.
4. Who is God calling you to love this week with the love He has given you? Share who that is for you and commit to pray for each other in this.
5. Take some time to pray together. Thank God for His amazing love for you and ask for Him to pour out His love into your heart through His Spirit and help you love the people He has called you to love this week (Romans 5:5).