

what child is this?

ADVENT 2016

DNA GUIDE

WEEK 2: THIS CHILD IS MAN

DISCOVER (PRE-WORK)

Before and while you read these passages ask the Spirit of God to illuminate your heart and mind and bring conviction and clarity of his truth for your life. Take some time during your own personal study to read through these four key questions:

1. Who is God (what does this passage tell me about God's character)?
2. What Has God Done (how do I see God's character in action here)?
3. Who Am I (how does God's character and action shape how I see myself)?
4. What Do I Do (if I believe 1-3 how would I respond and relate to others)?

Scripture: Matthew 1:22-23, Matthew 1:1-16

QUESTION: What did you DISCOVER during your study?

NURTURE

Confess out loud to one another areas of personal struggle or unbelief that the Spirit revealed during your personal study.

In light of this week's sermon entitled, "This Child is Man", consider these questions together:

1. How did Week 1 of the Advent series change your perspective this week on your traditions and the culture's celebration of Christmas?
2. What episodes in your own family might you be tempted to edit out of your genealogy? What about your family would you not want to reflect on you?
3. We talked about one implication of Matthew's choice to include so many shady characters in Jesus' genealogy, can you think of any other reasons why he might have done this or what it says about our faith?

4. In what ways does Jesus' inclusive mission of redemption encourage you or make you feel welcomed?
5. Who is your "them" and why?

During this time, let each person share how or where they need to repent and believe the truth of God revealed to them in Jesus. You may need to guide each other to what is true of God and ourselves in light of what Jesus has done. For instance, someone may be experiencing a great deal of dryness or emptiness in their relationship with God. They may need to be reminded that God wants to satisfy the deep thirst of their soul with the living water that Jesus has to offer. The call to repent may look like turning away (repent) from empty sources or corrupt sources that they have been depending up and turning to Jesus (believe) to be the unending supply of soul water. Use this time for confessing out loud the wrong sources and calling out in prayer for God the Father to pour His love into their hearts through his Spirit as they turn to Jesus for help.

QUESTION: How will you REPENT and BELIEVE the gospel?

ACT

In light of your time together, what steps will you take to act on your new discoveries and affirmed beliefs?

Consider these questions:

1. Which "them" do you need to identify and repent to? A person or people?
2. In what ways have you made distinctions between different kinds of image bearers and why do you think you've done that?
3. How can you go to and sacrifice for people who you have previously called "them"?
4. Since Jesus came to be "with us", how can you, during this season, be with him, both in his presence and on his mission?

QUESTION: What will you DO and who will you TELL about what God has done?