

From the message on December 10

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 ... Mighty God.
(Isaiah 9:6)

Text Isaiah 9:1-7

From the Message

Jesus is Mighty God. Because of his might, he carries out his purposes via his own authority and ability. But Jesus' might is not a capricious display, trumping opposing voices out of insecurity; his might is exercised in keeping with his character. Scholar John Oswalt summarized the might of Jesus depicted in scripture well when he wrote, "This king will have God's true might about him, power so great that it can absorb all the evil hurled at it until none is left to hurl."

Because of this, we're learning to pray about the world around us, to pray about ourselves, and in our prayers, to pray because Jesus is Mighty God.

Opening Interaction.

What makes a person powerful?

Read the passage and Discuss

Read Isaiah 9:1-7 and Matthew 4:12-17 together. What connections do these Old and New Testament passages have? What do they teach us about Jesus?

In what way is Jesus' might relevant to your life? After some brief discussion, read Romans 8:31-39, which describes ways in which Jesus' might is graciously shared with us. How is it that Jesus' might is active (even if we don't *feel* it)?

Prayer is a key practice of living in the reality of Jesus' might. What are your current prayer habits? Do you have interest in growing in your prayer practices? What can you commit to this week?

Encourage Each Other Through Prayer

1. For the Christmas Services, where people will hear the good news of Jesus, the Prince of Peace. Pray that many will begin to trust Christ!
2. Ask each other whether this holiday season presents any challenges. If so, pray for those!
3. For the 3 Elders rolling off of service, and the 6 recently-elected Elders, that God would guide their service by grace.
4. For our 3 active employment searches (Lead Pastor, Student Ministry Director, Special Needs Ministry Coordinator), that God will fill each for Calvary!

Information, if you need it:

Lead Pastor Search Updates can be found at calvary.church/leadpastorsearch
Financial contributions can be made at calvary.church/givenow
Current employment searches, calvary.church/employment