



GROW. PRAY. SERVE.

Series: ALL I NEED FOR CHRISTMAS

Message: "...is the Everlasting Father"



PRAYER: God of ever expanding love, we come today in worship and praise. We offer thanksgiving for your goodness and grace in our lives.

We bring ourselves to you, and with us all those who are in need. We remember those who suffer due to illness, war, poverty, estrangement, injustice or any other condition that steals the abundant life that you want for each of us. God of all creation, Spirit of redemption, let your will be done on earth as it is in heaven, now and forever. Make us ambassadors of your mercy everywhere we go. In the miraculous name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

ICEBREAKER: What's the first thing you think of when you hear the word "Father"?

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. As a small group, read Isaiah 9:6. Out of all of the things we tend to want from life in general and God in particular, why do you think He specifically gave us an "Everlasting Father"? What does this name tell us about the character of God?
2. Pastor Watson pointed out that oftentimes however we view our father is how we also tend to view God the father. What are some common ways people tend to do this? How has your view of your father affected your view of God?
3. How does our culture and media tend to portray dads? How might this influence the way our culture portrays God?
4. Read Luke 15:11-32, the story of the prodigal son. Jesus tells this parable to teach his disciples about our Father God. What do you learn about the character of God through this story?
5. What does the father's reaction to his son in 15:20 tell you about God's love for you? Share about a time God showed Himself as a father in your life.

CHALLENGE: This week, pray specifically for any group members who are in need of an Everlasting Father. Pray that this Christmas they will experience God's love, peace and healing in a new and life-changing way.

SERVE: Spend some time reflecting upon all the things that God did in your group and in your individual member's lives in 2009. Celebrate God's everlasting love!

CHAMPION TIP: Fathers protect and provide for their children. As a group champion, one of the greatest shepherding roles you can fill is that of "looking out for" your group members. Who in your group do you need to "look out for" and "watch over" in prayer this week: do it in faithfulness.

GPS Guide GPS is a study guide based on the weekend message.

The purpose of this guide is to assist small groups in study.

Previous GPS Guides are available online at www.myspbc.org under the Resources tab.