

BIBLE PASSAGE

A psalm of David.

1 The LORD is my shepherd;

I have all that I need.

2 He lets me rest in green meadows;

he leads me beside peaceful streams.

3 He renews my strength.

He guides me along right paths,

bringing honor to his name.

4 Even when I walk

through the darkest valley,

I will not be afraid,

for you are close beside me.

Your rod and your staff
protect and comfort me.

5 You prepare a feast for me

in the presence of my enemies.

You honor me by anointing my head with oil.

My cup overflows with blessings.

6 Surely your goodness and unfailing love will pursue
me

all the days of my life,

and I will live in the house of the LORD

forever.

Psalms 23 (NLT)

KEY TAKE-AWAYS



If you want to rewatch the sermon,
go to manheimbic.org/sermon.

On the sermon page search for accompanying
video to this discussion prompt by looking at
the title or the date displayed on the front.

To connect with a small group or host a small
group, please contact the Faith Formation office
at faith@manheimbic.org

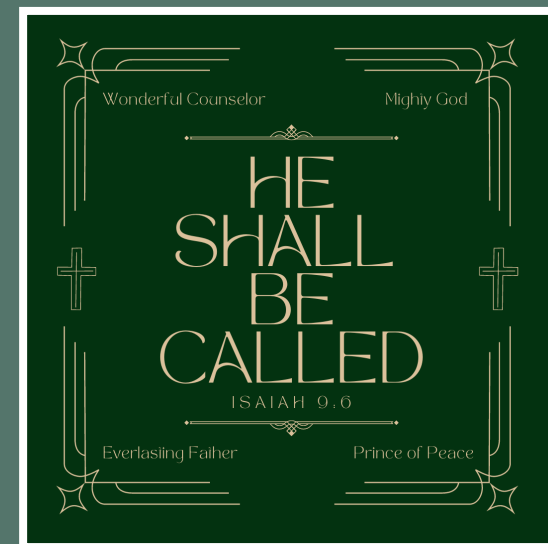
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ADVENT EVERLASTING FATHER

SERMON-BASED DISCUSSION



All the believers devoted
themselves to the apostles'
teaching, and to fellowship, and to
sharing in meals, and to prayer.
Acts 2:42 (NLT)



FAITH FORMATION
connect. grow. lead.



At Manheim BIC we strive to initiate and nurture a growing relationship with Christ.

For your time together:

Connect

Get to know each other. Connect, warm up to each other, fellowship. After a long week of all kind of things, just let everyone arrive.

Care

Carry each others burdens. Share life's challenges and practice Soul Care. Cry together. Support each other. Pray together. - Ask: How are you doing?

Challenge

Dive into God's Word. Use the discussion points. Learn from each others insight. Encourage and challenge each other to live a godly life.

Ask: What is God teaching us today?

Clarify

Make sure that everyone knows what's next. Next in your life with God. Next up within the group. Next in general. Have an applicable mission for the week.

Celebrate

Celebrate life's success and God's provision. Worship God's presence. Time to brag about God. - Ask: What has God done in our life that deserves praise?

GROUP DISCUSSION & LIFE CHALLENGE

Use these notes as discussion prompt for your group, or in your personal time with God.

OUT OF ALL NAMES OF JESUS, THE EVERLASTING FATHER DOES NOT MAKE SENSE. How can Jesus be son and father at the same time? In this sermon, Pastor Bryce helped us understand that **Jesus embodied the father's love** for us to see and understand better.

God desires for us to have a relationship with him. He wants to be the light in our darkness. He wants to be the motivation to keep going until we reach the summit. And God does so through Jesus Christ.

What holds us back from experiencing God in this way is often the wrong concept we have about him. If we see God as the enforcer of His laws then he becomes a distant Authority. But there can be a time when we can get to know God as the everlasting, faithful father.

How can you make sure that this shift happens? Pastor Bryce mentioned three things that might keep us from experiencing God as the **Everlasting Father**:

1. Evaluate Your attitude

Ask yourself, "in what areas of my life have I had the *I GOT THIS* attitude? Where has your pride, your professionalism, or your stubbornness replaced the reliance on God? Confess your attitude, to a friend if necessary. And then write on an index card how God can step into this particular area. Make it practical.

2. Pour out Your heart

Life is tough, no doubt about it. But the worst thing you can do is stay in the darkness alone. Take out a piece of paper and write a letter to God. Pour out your heart to him. If it helps you, look at how David in Psalm 27 shifts from crying out for help to hanging on to God for direction and comfort.

3. Seek His presence

We have probably all read Psalm 23 at some point of our life. Read it again. In your group, count the many though things David goes through. For example, he desperately **needs** rest and finds it in the *green pasture*.

In the last verse, David makes the declaration to "stay in the house of the lord forever". Why would David come to that conclusion? What do you find in Psalm 23 that points to any possible reason why David reaches this point of "seeking God's presence" constantly.

Jesus is described as the Everlasting Father, a man who demonstrated the love of God in an unimaginable way. It is truly an "Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound, that saved -and saves daily- a wretch like me. I once was lost, but now am found, was blind but now I see."