

**DATE:** *Dec. 11, 2024*

**SERIES:** *Countdown to Christmas!*

**TOPIC:** *How Much Longer?*

### GETTING STARTED

- **TAKE ATTENDANCE!** If you have any students in your group who are not on your roster, please WRITE their names on your sheet! Also, please make note about who is missing.
- **WELCOME** anyone NEW this week! (Be sure they get supplies if REGISTERED)

### CONVERSATION STARTERS

- **CHRISTMAS PARTY** – **Next week is our PowerLife Christmas Party!** Everyone is invited to wear your favorite Christmas outfit (ugly sweaters, beautiful sweaters, Santa hats, lights, Christmas socks, buddy the elf costumes, you name it!) Remember, it's ALL for Jesus! Also, each group is welcome to bring snacks (or food and drinks) to share with their group! Some groups order pizza and have it delivered to the church, others bake cookies, bring treats, or drinks, etc. It's optional, but also a fun way to end the semester with some fun!

### SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

**Big Questions:** How many days until Christmas?! (14 days away – 2 weeks from today!) Have you ever had to WAIT for something? Been on a long trip and asked the famous question, **"HOW MUCH LONGER?"** During times of waiting, it can be hard to have patience. However, as Christmas continues to get closer, beware of distractions!! REMEMBER, Jesus is the reason for the season! Keep FAITH your FOCUS!

**Main Takeaway:** In the whirlwind of Christmas preparations, keep your eyes (and heart) focused on JESUS! Does anyone listen to Christmas music? Be sure to spend time playing songs that specifically tell the story of JESUS (write down a list of favorites as a group!) Anyone like watching Christmas Movies? Which movies have themes that are CHRIST-CENTERED (example: The Grinch starts off GREEDY – but has a CHANGE OF HEART – when he realizes that the joy of Christmas isn't found in all the gifts, or the events that surround the Celebration. Instead, the joy is found in singing God's Praises!) Spend some time thinking of other examples/ideas.

### BUILDING HOPE FOR THE WORLD!

- The total contributions have been announced! **\$20,974,202.57!** PRAISE GOD!!
- Construction Projects will begin early in 2025!

### POWERLIFE "SHOUTOUTS!"

- **NOTE:** leave your shoutouts at the Leader Table when you check out!

## OPEN YOUR BIBLES!

- Have students look up and **HIGHLIGHT** these verses (pick a different student for each one!)

### **ISAIAH 9:2** (page 791)

- QUESTION: Who are the people “walking in great darkness” ? (read verse 1)
  - What does it mean they will SEE A GREAT LIGHT? (they will see JESUS!)
  - Who wrote this verse? (the PROPHET – Isaiah!)
    - When did Isaiah live? (approx. 700 years BEFORE JESUS!)

### **ISAIAH 9:6-7** (page 791)

- Who is “BORN” to us? (a child) // Who is “GIVEN” to us? (a son)
  - Who are these verses referring to? (JESUS!)
- What are the four different names given to him in this passage? (HIGHLIGHT!)
  - **Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**
- Take a moment to have each person pick one of these four names to discuss further (each student can pick a different name if they would like), then share with the group why this name stands out to you most and what you learn about God from it?

## MEMORY VERSE! (DECEMBER)

- Have students look up and **HIGHLIGHT** this verse!

### **JOSHUA 1:9** (page 237)

- God tells Joshua to **BE** two things (Strong & Courageous)
  - What does it mean to be Strong?
  - Have you ever done something REALLY courageous?
- God tells Joshua to **NOT BE** two things (Afraid or Discouraged)
  - Have you ever felt afraid? If so, of what?
  - Ever been discouraged? Why? What happened?
- Why does God tell Joshua to be strong/courageous & not afraid or discouraged?
  - Because **THE LORD your God IS WITH YOU!**

## ADVENT SERVICE PROJECT!

- Reminder, you can bring in donations of NEW hats, gloves, coats, boots & shoes!

## PRAY TO END THE NIGHT!

- Ask if any STUDENT wants to close your time together in prayer? OR as a leader, say a prayer of thanksgiving and blessing over the group! End with the Lord’s Prayer!

## CHECK OUT AT THE LEADER TABLE!

- Please return your folder (and your roster with attendance) to the leader table. If you have feedback or notes, please leave those with us as well!! **THANK YOU!!**