

ICE BREAKER

IDEAS

- * Social Media challenge like an ugly sweater contest
- * Make gingerbread houses together
- * Build the best snowman
- * Secret Santa virtual drawing (drawnames.com) and mail gifts/gift cards
- * Online games (Jackbox Games)
- * Kahoots online trivia/Christmas scripture based game to share
- * Photo scavenger hunt
- * Birthday Party for Jesus— Cake for all!
- * Christmas Caroling
- * Write cards together focusing on local nursing home. Maybe for “Home” cards for our Oakdale shut-ins
- * Decorate advent candlewreath and light the candles together each week
- * Cookie exchange

You will find these and more ideas to engage everyone at:

www.oakdale.church/Christmas

Resources

We want to equip everyone to start an in-person or online Discovery Group this Advent season and encourage you to continue meeting in the New Year.

WEBSITE: Visit www.oakdale.church/Christmas for links to print more invitations and coloring/activity sheets for kids; info about using Oakdale Zoom accounts for online gatherings; and much more!

PRAYER TEAM: Inviting people to do a Discovery Group is brand new to all of us at Oakdale. We have people who will journey with you in the process of discerning who God has prepared for you to invite. Contact: Christy Long, cplong@oakdale.church or Wayne Bauman, wbauman@oakdale.church

COACHING: Anyone—even non-believers—can facilitate a Discovery Group, since the Holy Spirit is the real leader. But our peer-coaching groups, which meet various days and times, will help you better understand the essential disciple-making “DNA” that is behind each of the 7 questions. Contact: Anne Jordan, ajordan@oakdale.church



3425 Emory Church Road
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ADVENT DISCOVERY GROUPS

FOR TO US

a child is born,

TO US A SON IS GIVEN
AND HIS NAME SHALL BE CALLED

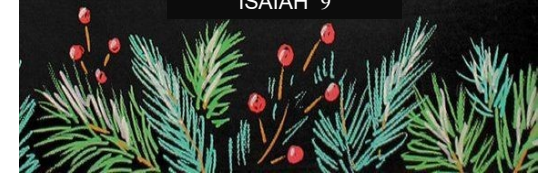
Wonderful Counselor,

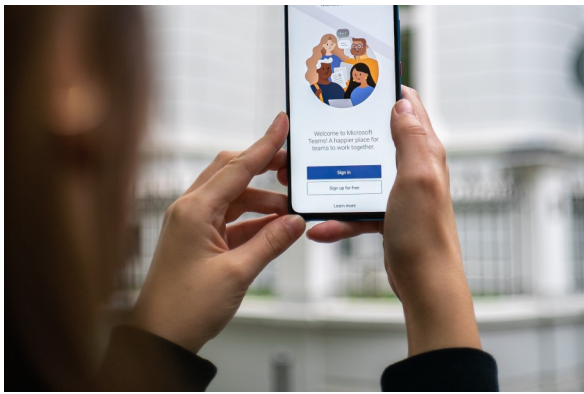
MIGHTY GOD

Everlasting Father,

Prince of Peace.

ISAIAH 9





STEP ONE: Invite

As a believer, one of your key roles in the disciple-making process is inviting non-believers—family members, friends, neighbors, people at your office, school, gym, club or another social network—to discover God in the Bible.

The Advent/Christmas season is the perfect time because people are more open to meaningful conversations about spiritual things, including Jesus.

Pray about who to invite—*note: it is not a good idea to mix people from your different networks together in the same group—*then “make the ask.”

These questions might help jump-start your conversations:

- * Have you ever wondered what the Bible says about the birth of Jesus?
- * Do you know what the Old Testament says about Jesus?
- * Have you ever wondered why Jesus’ birth is such a big deal?

STEP TWO: Gather

Be creative coming up with where/how the group can meet safely, as well as a day and time.

We encourage you to start with a fun activity around a Christmas theme (*see Ice Breaker suggestions on other side*).

STEP THREE: Connect

Before you engage with the scripture for the week, have each person share:

- * What are you thankful for this week?
- * What has challenged or stressed you this week?
- * Do you or anyone you know have a need the group can meet together?

These three Discovery Group questions provide a connection that many people long for and rarely experience. They also help open hearts wider to God’s Word.



STEP FOUR: Read

Scriptures for Advent

Week 1: Isaiah 11:1-10

Week 2: Isaiah 40:1-5

Week 3: Malachi 3:1-6

Week 4: Isaiah 9:2-7

Week 5: Revelation 7:9-17

Each week, have two people read the Scripture passage—in different translations, if possible.



STEP FIVE: Discover

- * What does this passage teach us about God?
- * What does this passage teach us about people?
- * What will you do this week in response to this passage?
- * Who will you share with this week?

At the start of Weeks 2-5, ask each person how they did with their two “I will...” commitments.