



**The Week of December 19, 2021**  
**Jesus, the Compassion of God With Us**  
**Conversation Guide**

**This Week's Take-Aways**

- **About Salvation:** (Ephesians 2:1-10) Salvation is an act of God's grace, not of our works. God offers redemption of anyone who accepts Jesus as Lord and Savior. They become new persons in Christ, have their sins forgiven by God, are set apart to live for God's purposes and anticipate eternity in heaven with God.
- **About Christ:** (Hebrews 1:1-4) I believe Jesus Christ is the Son of God who became man, lived a perfect life, died for sinners, rose from the dead and now reigns at the right hand of the Father.

**Intro Questions**

- What are your Christmas plans this week?
- Are you on the Naughty or Nice list this year?
- What is your favorite Christmas memory?
- What ways have you and your family found to keep Christ in your Christmas?

## Study

Isaiah 9:2-7

*The people walking in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
a light has dawned  
on those living in the land of darkness.  
You have enlarged the nation  
and increased its joy.  
The people have rejoiced before you  
as they rejoice at harvest time  
and as they rejoice when dividing spoils.  
For you have shattered their oppressive yoke  
and the rod on their shoulders,  
the staff of their oppressor,  
just as you did on the day of Midian.  
For every trampling boot of battle  
and the bloodied garments of war  
will be burned as fuel for the fire.  
For a child will be born for us,  
a son will be given to us,  
and the government will be on his shoulders.  
He will be named  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.  
The dominion will be vast,  
and its prosperity will never end.  
He will reign on the throne of David  
and over his kingdom,  
to establish and sustain it  
with justice and righteousness from now on and forever.  
The zeal of the Lord of Armies will accomplish this.*

- What names and titles are given to Jesus in this passage?
  - What do they tell us about His nature?
  - What does it tell us about the love of Jesus?

Luke 1:68-79

*Then his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied:  
Blessed is the Lord, the God of Israel,  
because he has visited  
and provided redemption for his people.  
He has raised up a horn of salvation for us  
in the house of his servant David,  
just as he spoke by the mouth  
of his holy prophets in ancient times;*

*salvation from our enemies  
 and from the hand of those who hate us.  
 He has dealt mercifully with our ancestors  
 and remembered his holy covenant —  
 the oath that he swore to our father Abraham,  
 to grant that we,  
 having been rescued  
 from the hand of our enemies,  
 would serve him without fear  
 in holiness and righteousness  
 in his presence all our days.  
 And you, child, will be called  
 a prophet of the Most High,  
 for you will go before the Lord  
 to prepare his ways,  
 to give his people knowledge of salvation  
 through the forgiveness of their sins.  
 Because of our God's merciful compassion,  
 the dawn from on high will visit us  
 to shine on those who live in darkness  
 and the shadow of death,  
 to guide our feet into the way of peace.*

- Who is speaking? Why is he significant to the story of Christ?
- Who is the “child” he is talking about?
- How is this telling of God's merciful compassion fulfilled in the birth and life of Jesus?

## Luke 2:25-35

*There was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout,  
 looking forward to Israel's consolation, and the Holy Spirit was on him. It had been revealed to him  
 by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he saw the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the  
 Spirit, he entered the temple. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to perform for him what  
 was customary under the law, Simeon took him up in his arms, praised God, and said,*

*Now, Master,  
 you can dismiss your servant in peace,  
 as you promised.  
 For my eyes have seen your salvation.  
 You have prepared it in the presence of all peoples —  
 a light for revelation to the Gentiles  
 and glory to your people Israel.”*

- How is Jesus' coming to earth the ultimate act of compassion by God? (See John 3:16)
- How was God compassionate to Simeon?

## Hebrews 4:14-16

*Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens — Jesus the Son of God — let us hold fast to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has been tempted in every way as we are, yet without sin. Therefore, let us approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in time of need.*

- Why is it important that Jesus can sympathize with our weaknesses?

## Philippians 2:1-11

*If, then, there is any encouragement in Christ, if any consolation of love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, make my joy complete by thinking the same way, having the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility consider others as more important than yourselves. Everyone should look not to his own interests, but rather to the interests of others.*

*Adopt the same attitude as that of Christ Jesus,  
who, existing in the form of God,  
did not consider equality with God  
as something to be exploited.  
Instead he emptied himself  
by assuming the form of a servant,  
taking on the likeness of humanity.  
And when he had come as a man,  
he humbled himself by becoming obedient  
to the point of death —  
even to death on a cross.  
For this reason God highly exalted him  
and gave him the name  
that is above every name,  
so that at the name of Jesus  
every knee will bow —  
in heaven and on earth  
and under the earth —  
and every tongue will confess  
that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.*

- What commands are given to believers in this passage?
- How is Jesus our ultimate example of love?
  - What exactly did He give up for you?
- Why is Christmas incomplete without Easter?