

The **WEIGHT**
of **WAITING**



DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

STUDENT EDITION

 **RIVERSIDE**
CHURCH

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Hey young friends!

Your parents or the older people in your life have been doing some devotions that go along with the sermons. I know that you might not listen to the sermons, but we thought you might enjoy doing a part of what they are doing!

So here is your very own book to use.

I hope that you will take time every day to read the verse here and spend time with Jesus. Do you know that He never sleeps? So even if you wake up in the morning early, He is waiting to see you?

Before you read, pray something like this:

“God, I’m so glad you want to spend time with me! I’m going to read your Bible today and I need you to help me understand what you are saying. Thanks for being here with me.”

Let’s get started 😊



WEEK 1

MONDAY (12/2/19)

Today we are just going to watch a video about the beginning of the book of Isaiah in the bible. It's kinda hard to read- to be honest! But the video will help. And praying will help!

Isaiah was a guy who lived a long time ago in the Old Testament times. He was a prophet- someone who heard from God and told the people what he heard. Isaiah talks a lot to God's people, the Israelites, about how they didn't listen and obey very well to God! Maybe you can relate to not listening to your mom or dad 😊.

Isaiah also tells them (and us) that God loves them, that He is reaching out towards them, and that he will not ever leave them.

Here is the video! You may need to ask your mom or dad, or an older friend to use a computer or phone to watch.

 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d0A6Uchb1F8>

TUESDAY (12/3/19)

Read Isaiah 1:24

I will try to always have it printed here for you! But you could also find it in your own Bible.

If you don't have a Bible, but want to have one, talk to Pastor Keith or your teacher and they will get you one!

**²⁴The Lord is the Mighty One of Israel.
The Lord who rules over all announces,
“Israel, you have become my enemies.
I will act against you in my anger.
I will pay you back for what you have done.**

The Bible says that we show God we are His friends if we do what He says that we should do. Israel was acting like God's enemy.

 When you read that God is mighty- what do you think that means?

WEDNESDAY (12/4/19)

 Read Isaiah 2:3

**³ People from many nations will go there. They will say,
“Come. Let us go up to the Lord’s mountain.
Let’s go to the temple of Jacob’s God.
He will teach us how we should live.
Then we will live the way he wants us to.”**

God wants people from ‘many nations’ or many different kinds of people to come to know Him and worship Him.

 Do you have friends that are different from you? Maybe their skin is a different color? Maybe their family is different than yours? Maybe they go to a different kind of church?

 Pray and ask God that they would come to know Him.

THURSDAY (12/5/19)

 Read Isaiah 3:5

⁵People will treat one another badly.
They will fight against one another.
They will fight against their neighbors.
Young people will attack old people.
Ordinary people will attack those who are more important.

② What does this verse say the people were doing that made them enemies of God?



FRIDAY (12/6/19)

 Read Isaiah 4:5-6

⁵Then the Lord will create over Jerusalem a cloud of smoke by day. He will also create a glow of flaming fire at night. The cloud and fire will appear over all of Mount Zion. They will also appear over the people who gather together there. The Lord's glory will be like a tent over everything. It will cover the people and give them shade from the hot sun all day long. ⁶It will be a safe place where they can hide from storms and rain.

Isaiah is telling the people that a day will come when God's glory (how God shows up as Himself) will come and give His people shade and safety.

 When you think of a safe place, what do you think of?

 Draw a picture here of your safe place:

SATURDAY (12/7/19)

- 🕒 Today is a day to catch up if you missed a day, or review what you read this week! You could also spend some time just talking to God about things you want Him to know about your life.



WEEK 2

SUNDAY (12/8/19)

 Read Micah 5:2

²The Lord says,
“Bethlehem Ephrathah, you might not be
an important town in the nation of Judah.
But out of you will come for me
a ruler over Israel.
His family line goes back
to the early years of your nation.
It goes all the way back
to days of long ago.”

Do you know the song *O Little Town of Bethlehem*? That’s what this verse is talking about!

A baby would be born in Bethlehem that would become a great ruler.

Here is what the song says:

*O little town of Bethlehem
How still we see thee lie
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting Light
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight*

MONDAY (12/9/19)

 Read Isaiah 5:7

**⁷The vineyard of the Lord who rules over all
is the nation of Israel.**

**The people of Judah
are the vines he took delight in.**

He kept looking for them to do what is fair.

But all he saw was blood being spilled.

He kept looking for them to do what is right.

But all he heard were cries of suffering.

God is comparing His people to a vineyard where grapevines grow. He took good care of them. But all He saw when He looked around was people doing what was wrong.

 When you look around, what do you see people doing?

 How do you know what is right to do?

TUESDAY (12/10/19)

 Read Isaiah 5:16

**¹⁶But the Lord who rules over all will be honored
because he judges fairly.
The holy God will prove that he is holy
by doing what is right.**

Isaiah tells the people that God is going to send people to capture them because they always disobey Him. He also tells them that God judges fairly. Our world is not fair, but God always is.

 When you look around the world, what do you see that is not fair?

 Pray and talk to God about the things that you see that are not right in the world.

WEDNESDAY (12/11/19)

 Read Isaiah 7:14

¹⁴The Lord himself will give you a sign. The virgin is going to have a baby. She will give birth to a son. And he will be called Immanuel.

Mary was a teenage girl when she became pregnant with Jesus. His name Immanuel means “God with us”.

Imagine being up in heaven ruling over the whole world and then being born as a little baby! God came and lived with us.

 How do you feel about God being with you?

THURSDAY (12/12/19)

 Read 2 Chronicles 28:24

²⁴Ahaz gathered together everything that belonged to God's temple. He cut all of it in pieces. Ahaz shut the doors of the Lord's temple. He set up altars at every street corner in Jerusalem.

Ahaz was an evil king. He did whatever he wanted to do. The bible calls this sin- going our own way instead of God's way.

He treated the things in the temple (like a church) badly and then closed the doors so that the people could not worship God.

 Are there times when you go your own way instead of God's way?

 What do you enjoy about being able to come to church and get to know Jesus better?

FRIDAY (12/13/19)

 Read Isaiah 8:17

¹⁷I will wait for the Lord.
He is turning his face away from Jacob's people.
I will put my trust in him.

② In your life, who are the people that you trust the most?

② Why do you trust them?

② How do you see the people around you put their trust in the Lord?



SATURDAY (12/14/19)

 Read Philippians 4:6

“Don’t worry about anything. No matter what happens, tell God about everything. Ask and pray, and give thanks to him.

God loves you and wants you to talk to Him about everything.

 What do you want to thank God for today?



WEEK 3

SUNDAY (12/15/19)

Today is another day to catch up or review what you learned this week!

 Pray for your teacher at church today and at school tomorrow!

MONDAY (12/16/19)

 Read Isaiah 9:6-7

⁶A child will be born to us.

A son will be given to us.

He will rule over us.

And he will be called

Wonderful Adviser and Mighty God.

He will also be called Father Who Lives Forever

and Prince Who Brings Peace.

⁷There will be no limit to how great his authority is.

The peace he brings will never end.

He will rule on David's throne

and over his kingdom.

He will make the kingdom strong and secure.

His rule will be based on what is fair and right.

It will last forever.

The Lord's great love will make sure that happens.

He rules over all.

Again we are reading Isaiah telling us about the birth of Jesus, Emmanuel (God with us), that wouldn't happen for years and years. It's so cool how God knows everything and is in control of everything.

 Who is the strongest and most secure person in your life right now? How does it make you feel to know that God is the MOST strong and secure?

 Spend a few minutes praying and thanking God for being strong in your life.

TUESDAY (12/17/19)

Read the verses from yesterday again 😊

❓ Where do you need peace in your life right now?

🙏 Pray and talk to God about that. He really cares about how you are feeling.

WEDNESDAY (12/18/19)

 Read Isaiah 11:3-4

³The Branch will take delight
in respecting the Lord.

He will not judge things only by the way they look.

He won't make decisions based simply on what people say.

⁴He will always do what is right

when he judges those who are in need.

He'll be completely fair

when he makes decisions about poor people.

“The Branch” is a funny name that Isaiah uses for Jesus. Remember when we talked about the vineyard and the grape vines? Jesus is a branch coming out from God to us.

We've read a lot about God being fair. It must have been a really unfair time when Isaiah lived. There is also a lot of unfairness in our time.

 How do you see poor people treated unfairly around you?

 Are there kids at school, Co-op, or in your neighborhood who get picked on because they do not have the things that everyone else has?

 Spend some time praying that you will treat people fairly.

THURSDAY (12/19/19)

 Read Isaiah 11: 6-9

⁶Wolves will live with lambs.

Leopards will lie down with goats.

Calves and lions will eat together.

And little children will lead them around.

⁷Cows will eat with bears.

Their little ones will lie down together.

And lions will eat straw like oxen.

⁸A baby will play near a hole where cobras live.

A young child will put its hand into a nest
where poisonous snakes live.

⁹None of those animals will harm or destroy anything or
anyone on my holy mountain of Zion.

Right now, even though God could change the whole world to be fair and kind, He lets us choose what we will do and how we will live. And a lot of times we go our own way instead of His (remember, the bible calls this sin).

But someday everyone will recognize God as the ruler and things will be different.

Isaiah tells us how different it will be by talking about how these animals will be friends and love to be near each other!

 What is amazing to you about this picture that Isaiah gives us?

FRIDAY (12/20/19)

 Read Isaiah 27:6

**“In days to come, Jacob’s people will put down roots like a vine.
Israel will bud and bloom.
They will fill the whole world with fruit.**

Isaiah loves word picture! So do I- they help me remember things 😊
He is telling us that one day God’s people will produce flowers and fruit
(qualities like love, joy, peace, patience, and kindness), where up until
now that have only disobeyed and gone their own way (remember - sin
😊.)

❓ In your own life, do you see the fruit qualities of love or joy or
peace or patience or kindness? Maybe you see a lot of them!

 Write out how you see these in your own life:

SATURDAY (12/21/19)

 Read Isaiah 29:16

¹⁶They turn everything upside down.

How silly they are to think that potters are like the clay they work with!

Can what is made say to the one who made it,

“You didn’t make me”?

Can the pot say to the potter,

“You don’t know anything”?

Have you ever made something with your play dough?

Imagine if you made a play dough bowl and it suddenly spoke up and said, “Hey! Get your hands off of me - I made myself and I want you to get lost!” Wouldn’t that be crazy- you obviously made the bowl. Play dough cannot make itself into anything!

Isaiah is saying that same thing. The people, God’s people were trying to tell them that He had not actually made them. That He didn’t know what He was doing.

God made all of you just like you are- did you know that? In another book of the Bible, in Psalms, God tells us that He saw us and formed us even when we were first inside of our mother! He knows you.

② What are some of the things about yourself that you think are really cool in the ways that God made you?

② What kinds of things are you really good at and enjoy doing?

 Spend some time praying and thanking God for taking time to make you just like you are.

WEEK 4

SUNDAY (12/22/19)

Spend some time today looking back over what you've learned the past couple weeks.

I am so proud of you for spending time getting to know Jesus!

MONDAY (12/23/19)

 Read Luke 1: 77-78

⁷⁷You will tell his people how they can be saved.

You will tell them that their sins can be forgiven.

**⁷⁸All of that will happen because our God is tender and caring.
His kindness will bring the rising sun to us from heaven.**

We've talked about what the Bible calls sin - *whenever I go my own way instead of God's way.*

The sin in us - *we all have it* - separates from God who is holy and never sins. It's kind of like the payment we get in return for our sin. We are separate from God. It means that we are actually like His enemies and not His son or daughter. Until we are forgiven.

Jesus came - remember Emmanuel (God with us), to offer us a way to have our sins forgiven!

When we let Jesus pay for our sins (and we don't think we can pay for them ourselves), we become a part of His family, His son or daughter.

God does this because He is tender and kind. He cares so much for us because He made us.

? Have you asked Jesus to pay for the penalty of your sins? If you are confused about this, you can ask your parents, or your teacher, or Pastor Keith!



TUESDAY (12/24/19) CHRISTMAS EVE

 Read Isaiah 40:10

¹⁰The Lord and King is coming with power.
He rules with a powerful arm.
He has set his people free.
He is bringing them back as his reward.
He has won the battle over their enemies.

Think about this today on Christmas Eve. When Jesus came and offered us forgiveness for our sins, He actually sets us free. The Bible tells us that before we become a part of God's family and our sins are forgiven, that we are actually slaves to our sin. That can be a hard thing to think about. It's like our normal actions wanted to be our own way instead of God's way (sin).

But we are His people. He loves you and created you to be His own. He is the only one that can set us free!

 Spend some time praying and thanking God for sending Jesus to live with us.

WEDNESDAY (12/25/19) CHRISTMAS DAY

Merry Christmas!

Some time today if you hear any Christmas carols playing, listen to the words and think about what they really mean. If the words are hard for you, ask an older person around you!



THURSDAY (12/26/19)

 Read Isaiah 42:10

¹⁰Sing a new song to the Lord.

Sing praise to him from one end of the earth to the other.

Sing, you who sail out on the ocean.

Sing, all you creatures in it.

Sing, you islands.

Sing, all you who live there.

 What are some things that you can praise or thank God for today?

 Sing a song to Him- you can even use what you listed above to make up your own song!

FRIDAY (12/27/19)

Today, instead of reading a section of scripture, I am going to type out portions of **Isaiah 43** and you are going to write your own name in the blanks. Then, say the whole thing aloud several times- it's pretty cool!

_____, the Lord created you. He formed
you _____. He says, " _____
do not be afraid." _____, you belong to Me.
_____, I will always be with you. No matter what
happens in your life, _____, I will be right with
you. _____, you are priceless to me. I love you
_____. I honor you _____.
_____, I created you because it brings me glory and
praise. I have chosen you _____. I have chosen you,
_____ so that you will know Me and trust Me.



SATURDAY (12/28/19)

Today, all we are going to do is say what you wrote out above over again several times.

- ② How does it make you feel to know that you are loved, you are priceless, and you are honored by God?



WEEK 5

SUNDAY (12/29/19)

Today, just sit and spend some time talking to Jesus.

Tell Him about your week.

Tell him about things that you really enjoyed this week.

Tell Him about things that made you sad or angry this week.

He is excited to sit and talk with you!

MONDAY (12/30/19)

 Read Isaiah 44: 21-22

²¹The Lord says, “Family of Jacob, remember these things.
People of Israel, you are my servant.
I have made you. You are my servant.
Israel, I will not forget you.
²²I will sweep your sins away as if they were a cloud.
I will blow them away as if they were the morning mist.
Return to me.
Then I will set you free.”

Isaiah is telling the people that God made them and they can serve Him.

It's the same with us! God made you and you can serve Him. You can help do His work, help Him love people, help tell other people about Him. No matter how old you are, you can serve God.

 What are some ways that you think you can serve God?

TUESDAY (12/31/19) NEW YEARS EVE

 Read Isaiah 48:13

¹³With my own hand I laid the foundations of the earth.
With my right hand I spread out the heavens.
When I send for them,
they come and stand ready to obey me.

Isaiah is telling the people that God made all of creation around them everything they can see, He made. And it all listens to His voice and does what He wants!

Think about it- the sun always comes up in the morning - God tells it to do that!

The stars come out at night - He tells them to do that!

 What are some other things that you can think of that God makes happen around you in creation?

WEDNESDAY (1/1/20) NEW YEARS DAY

 Read Isaiah 54:10

¹⁰The mountains might shake.

The hills might be removed.

But my faithful love for you will never be shaken.

And my covenant that promises peace to you will never be removed,” says the Lord. He shows you his loving concern.

Isaiah is telling the people that no matter what happens around them, God with them cannot be shaken. He will be with them. It is the same with us.

② How has God shown you His concern for you? How has He loved you?

THURSDAY (1/2/20)

 Read Isaiah 55:8-9

⁸“My thoughts are not like your thoughts.
And your ways are not like my ways,”
announces the Lord.

⁹“The heavens are higher than the earth.
And my ways are higher than your ways.
My thoughts are higher than your thoughts.

Isaiah is telling the people that we do not think the way God thinks. He is way smarter than us!

 What are some things you would like to learn from God?

FRIDAY (1/3/20)

 Read Isaiah 61:2b-3a

^{2b}Our God has sent me to comfort all those who are sad.

³He wants me to help those in Zion who are filled with sorrow.

I will put beautiful crowns on their heads in place of ashes.

② What makes you sad today? Or yesterday?

② When you are sad or hurt, who do you run to for a hug and some care?

② How does it make you feel to know that God wants to hold you and care for you?



SATURDAY (1/4/20)

Spend some time today looking back over what you learned about God in the first two weeks of this book.

② What have you learned?



SUNDAY (1/5/20)

Spend some time looking over weeks 3-4 of this book.

② What have you learned?





Know. Be. Do... *Together*

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