

SISTERHOOD LOUNGE ROOM

From our lounge room to yours

THE POWER OF A NAME

We are so excited you are joining us for the last Sisterhood Lounge Room of 2023. In this episode, Nicola is joined by, Abi, Zoe, and Liv as they discuss the characteristics of God from the passage in Isaiah 9:6

As you watch this episode, we have highlighted key scriptures, thoughts shared, as well as a few questions you can use in discussion with your group, or in your own time ... enjoy.

For to us, a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Isaiah 9:6

Nicola began by saying that this prophecy in Isaiah is a scripture often quoted in the Advent season. It reveals different characteristics of Jesus, the anticipated Messiah whom the people of God awaited. Through Isaiah's description of Jesus, we see how He intends to rule, reign, and establish His kingdom. It is revealed that He will be mighty and have power and authority with no equal rival. That He is the everlasting father, and not only will He provide peace but He is the prince of peace.

Nicola encouraged us that as we enter Advent and reflect on the birth of

Jesus, to also reflect on these wonderful aspects of His character:

- Wonderful Counsellor
- Mighty God
- Everlasting Father
- Prince of Peace

Wonderful Counsellor:

Zoe spoke on Jesus as the Wonderful Counsellor. She said that the meaning of 'wonderful' has lost its awe in the world today. When Isaiah describes Jesus as wonderful, he is inviting us to see Jesus as majestic, astonishing, invoking awe and wonder into our imaginations. So when we engage with Him as the Wonderful Counsellor, He isn't just our guide in natural wisdom and direction, God brings supernatural guidance. In fact, the word 'wonderful' in scripture is often used in the context of describing the supernatural. We can receive counsel from God that the world could never offer us.

Nicola shared a scripture from Isaiah 55 which says: "*Your ways are higher than my ways, and your thoughts are higher than my thoughts*", highlighting that no matter how incredible the wisdom and counsel of this world is, nothing comes close to God and his ways.


Zoe shared that she sees Jesus operating as a wonderful counsellor in three ways:

Through His word:

The bible is the living word of God and is our instruction manual. So much of what we are seeking guidance for can be found within scripture and all we need to do is read it.

Through discernment:


At times we may have a gut feeling and instinct about situations or decisions we must make. We need discern to know if these are



from God. There is a peace only Jesus can provide, and His council comes through the Holy Spirit living within us, who helps us discern situations daily.

Through His voice:

When we quieten our own thoughts and opinions God can speak directly into our circumstances. God speaks in many ways and in different seasons.



Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed.


Proverbs 15:22

Q- Have you experienced Jesus as your Wonderful(supernatural) Counselor?

Q- When you need guidance, what's your default? Do you turn to God or others first?

Q- How might you grow in your discernment or sensitivity in hearing God?

Mighty God:



Abi spoke on Jesus as Mighty God and how particularly in the Christmas season, we may view him as a fragile infant. As we remind ourselves that he is mighty in strength and authority, it enables us to rely on Him and relate to him as our personal strength and authority.

When you are going through challenges and difficulties in life, you want someone on your side who has a track record of winning. Jesus has the ultimate track record of winning. He has never lost a battle and has conquered death, sin, and the grave. We can take shelter in his strength and might for his power is made perfect in our weakness. When we are weak, he is strong. He is our safe refuge.

Isaiah 40 says, *"He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak."* His might is generous. He is fiercely for us.

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.

Ephesians 6:10

Nicola asked Abi how we should navigate the paradox of Jesus's character we see throughout scripture. He is called the first and the last, the King but also a servant. He is mighty but He is also compassionate and kind. Abi said that it helps her to remember that when He revealed himself to Moses, he said my name is 'I AM'. He is everything. He is healer, He is strength, He is peace, He is joy, He is comforter etc. No matter what is happening in life, He is all we need. He alone is sufficient.

Q- How does knowing God has never lost a battle, that He cannot loose, change your perceptive on the challenges you are navigating in life?

Q- God is the great I AM- what attribute of God do you need in this season?

Q - When you feel weak and weary, how do you receive God's strength?

Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom.

Isaiah 40:28

Everlasting Father:

Nicola invited Liv to speak about the characteristics of Everlasting Father. Liv



began by saying that the beauty of this description is that it positions us as His children and him as our Father. At some stage in life, our earthly fathers will fail us as they are not perfect. However, our Father in Heaven is everlasting and perfect. Being a child of God comes with the promise of being loved unconditionally, protected, and provided for always.

Many earthly fathers are unknown or absent, but our Father in heaven is not distant or disconnected, he knows everything, and he wants to be involved.

Liv added that he is also consistent, never changing, and sovereign, which provides us with stability and confidence in a world that is ever changing.

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

Hebrews 13:8

Q- Do you find it easy to relate to God as a perfect Father?

Q-Knowing God as our Father, name as many things as you can think of that we receive as His children e.g protection and provision.

Q- In a world that is unstable and inconsistent, how does knowing God as Everlasting (unchanging and consistent) encourage you?

Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests.

Luke 2: 14

Prince of Peace:

Nicola spoke on the final characteristic from the scripture in Isaiah, which is Jesus as the Prince of Peace. From the moment Jesus was born, Jesus brought peace with Him. Even when Jesus was preparing his disciples for His departure He said "My peace I leave with you."

Jesus does not give us peace, He IS Peace! Wherever Jesus is, Peace is there. If we want to experience peace, we only need invite Jesus into the situation. Worldly peace is often something we receive externally, it's temporary and circumstantial. However, the peace that Jesus brings is lasting, it comes from within and is not dependant on circumstances.

Peace is a fruit of the Spirit, it is a sign that God is at work inside us. It is not seasonal, but available to us always. We can not only experience peace, we can bring peace to situations. Matthew chapter 5 says '*blessed are the peacemakers for they are called the children of God.*' As believers we are called to be peacemakers in situations.

Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4 v5-7

Q- Is there a current situation you need to invite the Prince of Peace into?

Q- Have you seen a good example of someone who is a peace bringer?

Q- Ask the Holy Spirit to show you a situation in your life where He is asking you to be a Peace bringer.

This is the Jesus that you can know: The Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace.

Prayer:

Father, we pray that as we approach Christmas and keep looking to you, that you will continue to reveal yourself to us in a deeper and more intimate way. You are our Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace. May we experience you in each of these ways. We thank you Jesus for coming to earth, making a way for us to know and live with you forever.
Amen.