

Holding On To Hope

What's It All About?

Pastor Nichols asked the Juniors, "Will you help me preach my sermon this morning?"

Alex and Ben gasped and looked at each other. "No way," Ben said, "I couldn't stand up there and preach! That's your job."

"And I wouldn't want to listen to him." Alex laughed. He'd been Ben's best friend for the last six years.

Suddenly, all the Juniors were talking at once. "Okay. Okay. Hear me out," Pastor Nichols continued. "I'm not

asking you to *preach*. Just help me. When I ask the question 'Who is Jesus?' I need volunteers to stand at your pew and call out His names: Wonderful. Counselor. Mighty God. Everlasting Father. Prince of Peace. You can say that one name or you might say, 'I call Him ______.' So, what do you think?"

Now, that sounded interesting. All the Juniors volunteered and practiced.

An hour later.

The Juniors spread out around the auditorium and balcony. Pastor Nichols preached about Christmas Day and celebrating the Baby Jesus. Ben listened closely as Pastor Nichols said, "When we watch today's news on TV, it can be pretty disturbing. We wonder when or if there will ever be justice, righteousness, or peace in our world. Sometimes our neighborhoods don't feel safe. People are unfair. Yet, you are here at church. You are celebrating Christmas. For some reason, you believe this Baby will make a difference."

Suddenly, Ben heard Pastor Nichols say, "As we celebrate the Baby, I'd like to know 'Who is Jesus, really?" One by one, Juniors stood and called out His names as practiced. It worked! Pastor Nichols had everyone's attention as he explained how God, through Baby Jesus, became all things for all people. Each Junior listened carefully to understand his or her assigned name.

As Ben and Alex met outside afterward, Alex said, "Since Jesus is Messiah and He is all those names, no wonder His authority brings peace. I'm glad I understand now—and I'm also glad you weren't preaching!"

Which of the names of Jesus means the most to you right now? Why? What might Alex and Ben tell their friends at school the next day?



Learning From God

Isaiah was a prophet. He spoke God's Word to the people. The book of Isaiah is the Bible's longest book of prophecy. In it, Isaiah announced that a child would be born. The child would be the Messiah, Savior of the world. New Testament writers quoted from Isaiah. They saw Isaiah's prophecy fulfilled through Jesus Christ's birth and life.

Isaiah 9:2–7, NIV—The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.

[V. 2 The Bible describes sin as darkness and death. Jesus Christ's salvation

is light and life.]

3 You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder. 4 For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor. 5 Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire.

[Vv. 2–5 Light conquers darkness. The Messiah conquers sin.]

6 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 Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. **7** Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

[Vv. 6–7 Jesus fulfilled this prophecy completely.]

What I Have Learned

Complete the puzzle to celebrate the One who brings justice, righteousness, and peace.

				1	ta liber year her?
	2				followers on a
		d ob			is a many
					ejāraja kurak sart akk brusarma
		WAR.			jediki tesa, a tele
4					- 2-25
de August 1943 K. Barti to 2014			ia u. In r		and the factor
5					

Across
3. Mighty
4. Prince of
5. His name shall be called

Down 1. His name shall be called ______

2. Everlasting _____

Keep In Mind

"Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this" (Isaiah 9:7, NIV).

Choosing What's Best

In today's story, Alex and Ben learned more about Jesus' titles. Imagine if you were asked to help with the sermon. What would you tell your friends the next day at school about Pastor Nichols' sermon and how you helped? Who would you share the message of Christ with at your school? On the lines below, write the name of one person and what you would say.

1-1-1-1	12.	10 - 15 to	The sector		
 1					
4-3-46	11		t constitu	100	

Doing My Part

For the next five days, focus on Isaiah's prophecy. Ask God to show you the meaning of Jesus' names in your life. Thank God for Jesus and each attribute. Place a \checkmark next to each name as you pray.

	Wonderful
_	V V O I I G C I I G I

	Counse	IN
The second second	Counse	\cdot

The	Mighty	God
THE	Milgitty	COC

The Everlasting I	Fathe
-------------------	-------

☐ The Prince of Peace