



12.12.10/Isaiah 9:6 – Everlasting Father (supporting text: Hebrews 2:10-18)

Opening Activity

Ask the children if they understand what adoption means. If a mom and dad have a son, and they decide to adopt another son, the two boys become brothers. They may not be biological brothers (meaning, they don't have the same parents), but mom and dad will treat them the same. They share toys, they go on the same trips together, they live in the same house together, and they do the same things. Because of mom and dad's love and adoption, the adopted son is treated exactly like his brother. In Isaiah 9:6, we read about Jesus as the Everlasting Father. He loves us enough that Jesus came to Earth to die for us, so that we could be treated as family.

Read Isaiah 9:6

"For to us a child is born; to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

Discussion

In Hebrews 2:10, we read: "For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering."

Because God, our Heavenly Father, loved us, His goal was to "bring many sons [and daughters] to glory." He wanted us to be with Him forever, and He sent Jesus, His Son, to earth to save us.

Because God made us, we are also His children, but because of our sin, we couldn't be considered His sons and daughters any longer, but rather enemies because our sinful hearts were against Him. Jesus came to the world to die for our sins, so that we could mend the relationship with the Father.

Question 1

Does this mean that we are Jesus' sons and daughters?

Yes! When we believe in Jesus and accept His gift of salvation, we become His children, just like we read about in Hebrews 2:13, where Jesus talks about how God gives Him children. In other words, when we believe in Jesus, we become adopted into the family of God with Jesus as our Everlasting Father!

Question 2

Why did Jesus have to die for our sins?

God knew that only a perfect sacrifice would cover our sins. No one else could take our place but Jesus, since He is the only perfect one. For Jesus to take our place, He had to come to the world to be like us. He had to be born, He had to eat food, He had to grow up, and He had to go through the things we go through. We are tempted, so Jesus had to be tempted. We suffer, so Jesus had to suffer. The only way He could die to provide a sacrifice for our sins was to become one of us, but instead of being sinful like we are, Jesus was righteous and pure. That's why He was the perfect sacrifice for us!

Question 3

What does this mean for us?

When we accept the sacrifice that Jesus made for us, God can look on us as righteous and pure like Jesus is. This means that He sees us as sons and daughters!

Wrap Up

If you want to accept Jesus' gift of salvation, talk to a parent about this today. Let's pray that we will see how much God loves us each day, and that we will trust Jesus as Everlasting Father.