



DATE	December 4, 2016
SPEAKER	David Smith
TITLE	Intentional Living
SERIES	The Bible says Jesus is our Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father and Prince of Peace. And believing that should change the way we live! But if we're not intentional about it, Christmas can come and go without changing us at all. Let's make this Christmas an intentional Christmas.

Intentional Christmas is all about intentionally pursuing Jesus because he intentionally pursued us. We've been looking at the intentional Jesus portrayed in Isaiah 9:6. Today we examine Jesus' second title, **Mighty God**, as motivation to respond with intentional living.

1. What is your favorite thing to do during December? ...and who do you do it with?
2. The Bible is full of commands from our Lord about how we are to live. Read Deuteronomy 6:5, John 15:12 and Ephesians 5:15-16. Share how these verses support the idea of intentional living. Feel free to add other verses that may come to mind.
3. Today's scripture (Matt 2:1-12) gives clues to how we can intentionally reshape the way we live. David pointed out the need to **reshape our perspective by asking the question "Who is number one in my life?"** Keep this in mind as you discuss the following questions with your group.
 - a. Like **Herod**, some around us may be threatened by Jesus at Christmas. How could you disarm the threat and open a door for someone?
 - b. Like **the Pharisees**, some of us may know about Jesus and have perhaps accepted salvation but are not truly living in the fullness of salvation with the knowledge we possess. What changes do you need to make with the knowledge you have?
 - c. Like **the Wise men** some of us are true worshippers. Does your calendar reflect your values? How will you be even more intentional going forward?
4. David also pointed out how we can be intentional by **reshaping our calendar around our values**. Looking back at your answer to question #1, does this reflect the intentional living values you would like? If not, share how you might reshape by... **writing down your values, scheduling your calendar, creating a "to-do list," or making room for people?** If so, share what could you do a little different to make an even bigger impact?
5. David said "Good intentions are good for nothing until you take action." This requires reshaping our lives. What would you have to give up to make this happen?

Information does not equal transformation... **Information plus application leads to transformation.**
May we be transformed this Christmas by intentionally reshaping our lives for God's glory!