

## BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, Dec. 20, 2020

Passage: Isaiah 9:1-7

Memory Passage: Isaiah 9:6-7

### DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Is. 9:1-7 & Matt. 4:12-17.** What accounts for the sudden shift in mood in v. 1 (cf. 8:21-22)?
- (b) To what does “the former time” and “the latter time” refer (NB: Isaiah uses “prophetic perfects” in which the English past tense is used to describe future events because they are divinely spoken through God’s prophet and are sure to come to pass)?
- (c) What is this “great light” that has shined on God’s people and what was the “deep darkness” in which they once walked? How does Matt. 4:12-17 help us to understand the ultimate meaning/fulfillment of this prophecy?
- (d) The increase of the nation’s joy is given a 3-fold description in vs. 4-7 (note the “for” that begins each verse). What does Isaiah intend to convey about God’s coming victory when he compares it to “the day of Midian” (v. 4; cf. Judges 6-7)?

### DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Is. 9:1-7.** What characteristics of this Child-King inform you that a human king is not ultimately in view?
- (b) What do you learn about this Child-King’s rule (“government”) in vs. 6b & 7, and what does this increase have to do with the throne of David (cf. Gen. 49:8-12, 2 Sam. 7:8-16)?
- (c) **Read Is. 11:1-2, 28:29; 46:8-11, Jer. 32:17-19, Job 12:12-25; Rom. 11:33-36 & Eph. 1:10-12.** “Wonderful Counselor:” What do you learn about God’s counsel from these verses?
- (d) How do these truths help you respond to situations in which you are tempted to be anxious, fearful, stressed, depressed, despondent, worried, or angry because you are not in control?

### DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Is. 1:21-31, 10:20-27, 49:22-26, & 60:15-22.** These passages include 4 other times God is named “Mighty God/One” in Isaiah. For each passage, answer the following: (1) What is the main theme? (2) How does/will God exercise His great might? (3) What similarities do you find with the other passages? (4) What do you learn about God’s character (5) How does the passage point to Jesus?
- (b) Based on your answers in (a), what principles do you see from each passage that will help you pursue your sanctification in the coming days? Principles about God’s character & actions, the actions of God’s people & His response, or the actions of His enemies and His response, etc. For help consider answering this question with each principle in mind: “When I am tempted to \_\_\_\_\_, I will remember that God is/will \_\_\_\_\_ and therefore I will \_\_\_\_\_.”

### DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Is. 9:1-7.** “Everlasting Father:” What does this name reveal about the character of the coming Child-King?
- (b) Read Psalm 103 and write down all of God’s activities that prove Ps. 103:13 to be true: “As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him.”
- (c) Though Jesus the Son, 2<sup>nd</sup> person of the Trinity, is not The Father, 1<sup>st</sup> Person of the Trinity, He does eternally care for His people with the tender care of the Father. To help you understand this, revisit every compassionate act you found in Psalm 103 and write down how Jesus provided this for you through His work on the cross. For instance, He provided the forgiveness of all your sin (v. 3) and redeemed you from the pit (v. 4) by his death on the cross.

### DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Is. 9:6-7, 53:4-6, Luke 2:14, 19:42, John 14:27, 16:33, Rom. 5:1, Eph. 2:11-22, Col. 1: 18-20, & 2 Thess. 3:16.** As you read, write down everything you learn about Jesus and His work as the “Prince of Peace.” Then write several applications you will implement this week. If it helps, you might use a format such as: “Since Jesus is my Prince of Peace, I know \_\_\_\_\_ is true, so I will/will not \_\_\_\_\_.”
- (b) **Read Is. 26:11-13, 37:32, 42:1-13, 59:15-21, & 63:15-19.** These passages contain the other uses of “zeal” in Isaiah. As you read, (1) write down everything you learn about God’s zeal, & (2) write down how these truths bolster your faith and trust in God and can be used to preach the gospel to yourself when you are tempted to doubt God and His promises.

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*To Us A Child Is Born*