

ADVENT Episode I: A Christmas Story

Pastor Bill Bowers | December 16, 2018

From Despair to Deliverance

Scripture: Isaiah 9:1-7 (NLT)

- **Despair:** The complete loss or absence of hope.

THREE PROMISES FROM GOD

- 1) In the darkness of despair, God promises Light.
(Isaiah 9:2, John 8:12)

KNOW Christ and make Him known.

GROW disciples who grow disciples.

SHOW the love of Christ to our community and beyond.



Roma Downey 

@RealRomaDowney



It's better to light one candle than curse the darkness.

- 2) In the pain of despair, God promises Joy.
(Isaiah 9:3-4)

- 3) In the depth of despair, God promises a Savior.
(Isaiah 9:6)

OUR DESPAIR DOES NOT OVERWHELM GOD'S PROMISES!

HOMEGROUP & PERSONAL STUDY QUESTIONS

Scripture: Isaiah 9:1-7 (NLT)

1. Can you recall a time when you have been in despair, experiencing a complete loss or absence of hope? What moved you from despair and renewed your hope while in your circumstance/situation? Where you able to “hear and see” God during your time of despair? Please share your experience.
2. Pastor Bill gave us references of God’s promise to provide us light and hope during seasons of despair. Do you experience this? Can you share the most common source of your despair?
3. We were also provided references that God promises that we can receive joy in the midst of the “pain of despair.” Can you share any experiences that give testimony to your joy in seasons of pain? What was your source of joy and how did it lift you from your pain?
4. “In the depth of despair, He (God) promises us a Savior.” While this is comforting in a “big picture” perspective, it can sometimes seem hollow when we are overwhelmed with darkness, pain, and lack of hope. How does your faith in Jesus as your eternal Savior give light to your darkness? Is this comfort sustainable even if your pain and depression are not lifted? How do you cope? Where do you go for comfort?
5. In what way do the promises of God comfort you? Can you provide real examples?