



# theridgechurch

## **LIFEgroup Discussion Questions**

**Advent: Jesus, fixing our eyes on Him**

**Sunday, December 21**

**Read: Isaiah 8.11-9.7**

1. What is the backdrop to Isaiah 8 and 9? What do we know about King Ahaz (2 Kings 16.1-6; 2 Chronicles 28.1-4 and Psalm 106.35-39)? What did the people forsake? What did they worship? What did they eventually look to besides God (8.22)? How in our day have people turned to the earth? As a result of their idolatry what was the condition they found themselves in (8.22)?
2. The Apostle Paul says in 1 Corinthians 10.14 that we are to *flee immorality* and avoid Israel's mistakes. What is idolatry? Look at these texts: Psalm 96.5; Leviticus 17.7; Deuteronomy 32.16-18. From these texts is it right to say that idolatry is the worship of demons?
3. What happened to the land of Zebulun and Naphtali (9.1)? Why? Where is this located? What does God promise in the midst of such gloom and despair (9.1)?
4. What does the light in 9.2 refer to (John 1.4-5)? Look at Matthew 4.12-16. Look at the following texts (or refer to them) and discuss how the light is revealed in the darkness?  
*Genesis 3.1-7 (Fall of Man) and Genesis 3.15 (The Gospel)*  
*Exodus 5-Exodus 11 (Oppression of Israel and Plagues for Egypt) and Exodus 12 (Passover Lamb)*
5. The foretaste of joy, victory and peace will come at the first advent, but what is promised in 9.3-5? What is this referring to?
6. Who is this child (9.6)? What do the names of Jesus tell us about Him (9.6)? Wonderful Counselor? Mighty God? Everlasting Father? Prince of Peace? Sovereign King (9.6, 7)?
7. The world we live in is in despair and gloom. This time of year it might be hidden by gifts, lights on a tree or a festive feel when one's heart is as dark and lonely as can be. Jesus is *the light of the world* (John 8.12). What are we as His people to be this season? Read Matthew 5.14-16.

**Pray.** May you enjoy this advent season as we fix our eyes on Jesus. May worship of Christ take the prominent place and may all that is done this season be done for the glory of God (1 Corinthians 10.31).