

CHRISTMAS “THE WHOLE STORY”: DECEMBER 9

Cobblestone / Small Group Study

Sermon Response Questions:

- 1) What was your biggest takeaway from this weekend?
 - 2) ICEBREAKER: share your most memorable Christmas memory and why
 - 3) Where is somewhere you need God to show up as the Wonderful Counselor?
-

Bible Study Questions:

The prophecies of Isaiah were spoken to a people who were experiencing the deep gloom of anguish, an anguish that was both spiritual and physical. If we fail to consider the depth of the Israelites’—and our—need for the light of Jesus, we will not fully comprehend the true wonder of Isaiah’s pronouncement.

Read Isaiah 9:1-7.

- 1) As a group, remind one another of the context Isaiah 9 was written in and read Isaiah 8:11-22. What is the spiritual state of God’s people when this prophecy is given?
- 2) Go through verses 9:1-5 and make a list of all the words that point to darkness or pain. How are these words and themes different than when we saw them in chapter 8?
- 3) What do we learn about Jesus in verses 6-7? Take some time to discuss the titles of Jesus given? What attributes of God are revealed in these titles? Of these names and facts listed in question 3, which encourages you most? which gives you the most hope? Why?
- 4) What does it mean that the “government shall be upon his shoulder,” that “there will be no end to his increase or peace,” and that he will both “establish and uphold” this kingdom? What is the zeal of the Lord Almighty? (v. 7 and Isa. 42:13) How is it different from human zeal?

5) How has Jesus, the promised child of this passage, fulfilled this prophecy and made the dark world “light up”?

Group Application Questions:

1) What does the Bible have to say to real people in real situations? How do you struggle to connect God’s promises, like in Isaiah 9:6-7, with the real circumstances you face in your life?

2) Read John 1:9 which is talking about Jesus. If someone who was 'walking in darkness' or 'living in darkness' asked you how Jesus could make a difference in their lives, what would you say?

3) Jesus is the Prince of Peace. What difference should that make in our lives?

Prayer: [As a Group.](#)

Thank God for acting on your behalf to shatter the yoke of oppression through the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

Invite him to show you how to live joyfully this week.