



Growth Group discussion questions for Isaiah 9:6

Christmas

Week of Dec. 3-6, 2017

1. NCC Q13: Can anyone keep the law of God perfectly?
A: Since the fall, no mere human has been able to keep the law of God perfectly, but consistently breaks it in thought, word, and deed.
Memorize, meditate on and be ready to recite **Romans 3:10-12**.
2. What principles or thoughts had the most impact on you from the message on this passage on Sunday, Dec. 3rd? How were you specifically challenged?
3. What questions did the message bring up that you'd like to discuss?
4. What points of application did you take away from the message?
5. Carefully read Isaiah 9:1-7 at least twice.
6. Isaiah 9:1-7 is a joyous birth announcement of a royal child – the Messiah. It tells of a time in the future when light will shine out of dark circumstances, there will be great joy and gladness, and a time of peace. Look carefully at 9:6.
 - a) What does it say the role of this child will eventually be?
 - b) The prophet says this child will be called by 4 two-word names. Try to explain what each name means and how it's significant. How is each name comforting or encouraging to you?
 - Wonderful Counselor (Isaiah 11:2)
 - Mighty God (Col. 1:15-20, Heb. 1:1-4)
 - Everlasting Father (Heb. 1:8)
 - Prince of Peace (Rom. 5:1; Eph. 2:13-16; Isaiah 9:7, 11:6-9)

7. Read another birth announcement closely connected to this one, which is found in Isaiah 7:14-15. What do we learn about this one called “Immanuel”? What does “Immanuel” mean (Matt. 1:23)?

8. What is it important that Immanuel would be born of a virgin (Is. 7:14; Luke 1:30-35)? Why did the prophet call it “a sign”?

9. What will be the nature of the Messiah’s reign (Isaiah 9:7, Daniel 7:13-14)? What’s the significance of mentioning “the throne of David” in Is. 9:7? (2 Sam. 7:16, Matt. 1:1, Luke 1:31-33)

10. The bold prophecies in Isaiah 9:6-7 talk of a reigning Messiah. But Jesus did not reign in exactly the way they thought. How are we to understand these prophecies? How is Jesus’ reign “already, but not yet”? (Mark 1:14-15, John 18:36-37, Col. 1:13-14;; Acts 1:11, Rev. 20:4-6, 2 Tim. 4:18)

11. The Bible is clear that Jesus will return, and it could be any time. What difference should it make in how you live your life that Jesus could return at any time? (Matt. 6:19-20; 2 Cor. 5:9-10, 16-20, what else?)

PRAY IN THE GROUP

- What has God impressed on you through this study? Pray that God would enable you to grow in any areas of spiritual conviction. Pray about specific needs of the people in your group.
- Pray for our upcoming church-wide Christmas Dinner (Saturday, Dec. 9th) – for encouraging fellowship and relationship-building. Pray also for our annual Christmas caroling (Sunday, Dec. 17th), that our neighbors would be blessed and that God would be glorified.