



WEEKLY SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

Hope

Isaiah 9:2-7

EXPLORING THE SERMON

- What did you hear?
- What did you think or feel about what you heard?
- What is one thing you can take away from the sermon this week?

VERSES FOR MEDITATION AND REFLECTION

“The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end.”

Isaiah 9:2,7

Hope is the theme of this first week of Advent. Our scripture passage today is from the book of Isaiah, written about 700 years before the birth of Christ. Isaiah gave this prophecy about the coming Messiah amid a background of darkness and destruction, war and gloom, not unlike the current backdrop of our world. The first few verses are poetic, with darkness signifying adversity, despair, gloom, and evil; and light signifying prosperity, peace, and joy.

- *Isaiah proclaims that the Messiah will bring grace and truth and the sure promise of peace to a broken world. As believers, how can we not get lost in the gloom and despair of the current day?*

“....they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as men rejoice when dividing the plunder.” **Isaiah 9:7.**

- *How are the images of the joy that comes at a harvest, and dividing up plunder after a war used to describe the coming of the Lord?*

In another reference to war, specifically Israel’s victory over Midian through Gideon, Isaiah claims that *“every warrior’s boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire.”* **Isaiah 9:5.**

- *How does this declaration that there will come a day when peace will reign and war will end give us hope for Jesus’ second coming? How might that change how we live our lives day-to-day?*

In verses 6 and 7, Isaiah describes how the very nature of the Messiah will transform the gloom and despair of war into a time of joy and peace. Discuss how each of the names listed for the Messiah portray his character and how He will be in reality what His titles claim. How are these descriptions of the Messiah calls to greater prayer, confidence, and service? How can this knowledge help us carry out our task of proclaiming to the world the eternal peace found only with God?

- *Wonderful Counselor*
- *Mighty God*
- *Everlasting Father*
- *Prince of Peace*

*Heavenly Father, thank you for Your assurance through scripture that the hope of peace rest only with Jesus. Thank you for providing a way for us to be reconciled to You through your Son, and prepare us to anticipate His second coming when He makes all things new. **Amen.***

*Dear Heavenly Father, **Amen.***