

A GREAT LIGHT

Isaiah 9:1-7

MAIN IDEAS FROM THIS WEEK

1. THE NEED FOR CHRISTMAS
2. THE HOPE OF CHRISTMAS
3. THE PROMISE OF CHRISTMAS

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS – Pick one or two of these to talk about as a group

1. What stood out to you most from this week's message? Why?
2. This week we started a brand-new series called "The Meaning of Christmas." When Christmas is taken out of its proper frame we can treat it like any other holiday. What are some ways you tend to lose sight of the meaning of Christmas? What are some practical ideas that can help us keep Christmas in its proper context?
3. In Isaiah 9, we see that not only do we live in a world of darkness but also that darkness lives inside each of us. This doesn't sound like the typical start to a jolly Christmas message. Why is it important to understand how dark things really are if we are going to grasp the significance of Christmas? In what ways is Jesus a "great light?"
4. In Isaiah 9:4, we see that Christmas promises the removal of burdens. Does Christmas tend to add or remove burdens from you? What burden is Christmas meant to remove?
5. Look at the four names given for Jesus in Isaiah 9:6. They are **1) Wonderful Counselor 2) Mighty God 3) Eternal Father 4) Prince of Peace**. Take time discussing these names. What do each of these names tell us about Jesus? Why are they significant?
6. The hope of Christmas is that a great light will break through the darkness and bring joy! What about Christmas brings you joy?

A TRUTH TO TAKE WITH YOU: Christmas is not about escaping reality. Christmas is about facing reality with hope.