

Life Group Study Guide: Loved what you heard on Sunday? Want to go deeper? The life group study guide will help you unpack what you heard on Sunday while diving deeper into God's word.

1. What is one of your favorite Christmas traditions?
2. What was the worst Christmas gift you ever received? What was the best Christmas gift you ever received?
3. What insight, observation, or principle from this weekend's message did you find most helpful, insightful, or troubling? Explain.

Isaiah 9 is a prophecy about the coming Messiah, God's savior. Christians often read this passage of scripture during the Christmas season to remind us of the significance of Jesus coming into our world this promised Messiah.

- As a group spend some time reading through Isaiah 9. As you read highlight interesting verses, or places you may have a question.
- Isaiah 9:2 declares that, "...those walking in darkness have seen a great light, on them a light has shined..." How is the world we live in a dark place? What is your answer for why world we live in such a dark place?

- In every Gospel account Jesus is referred to as light. Even Jesus himself called himself the light of the world. Read Matthew 4:16, John 1:9-10, John 8:12. Why do you think the Gospel writers choose to describe Jesus as the light? Is it a coincidence that Christmas is often celebrated with lights?
- Isaiah 9:6 describes the coming Messiah with several different titles. What were those titles? How do we see Jesus fulfill each of these titles in the scriptures? How has Jesus fulfilled these roles in your life?

Digging Deeper

1. On Sunday Pastor Jason made this statement... "There has never been a gift offered that makes you swallow your pride to the depths that the gift of Jesus Christ requires us to do. Christmas means we are lost, so unable to save ourselves, that nothing less than the death of the Son of God himself could save us. That means that you are not somebody who can pull yourself together and live a moral and good life." What are your thoughts about this statement? Does this truth change the way you see Christmas, yourself?
2. This past Sunday we discovered three ways to respond to Jesus as the light of the world. See Sermon Notes. Which response is most applicable for you this Christmas?



ISAIAH 9:2-7

Isaiah 9:2, 5-7 (NIV) *The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. . . .⁵ Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire.⁶ For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.⁷ Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end.*

THE WORLD IS A **DARK** PLACE. WE WILL NEVER FIND OUR WAY UNLESS JESUS IS OUR **LIGHT**.

John 1:9-10 (ESV) *The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him.*

WHAT IS THE SOLUTION TO DARKNESS IN OUR WORLD?

WORLD'S SOLUTION
HUMANITY: WE HAVE THE LIGHT **WITHIN US**

GOD'S SOLUTION
JESUS: A LIGHT **OUTSIDE** OF US

John 8:12 *"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."*

JESUS, THE LIGHT, HAS BROUGHT US...

➤ **LIFE**

- **Acts 17:28 (ESV)** *"In him we live and move and have our being."*

➤ **TRUTH**

- **1 John 1:5-6 (ESV)** *This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.⁶ If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth...*

➤ **JOY**

- **John 15:11 (ESV)** *These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.*

HOW DO WE RESPOND TO THE LIGHT OF JESUS?

- IF JESUS IS REALLY MIGHTY GOD & EVERLASTING FATHER, YOU CAN'T JUST **LIKE HIM!**
- IF JESUS REALLY IS A WONDERFUL COUNSELOR & THE PRINCE OF PEACE, YOU WILL WANT TO **SERVE HIM!**
- TO ACCEPT THE CHRISTMAS GIFT OF JESUS, YOU HAVE TO ADMIT YOU ARE A **SINNER.**