

## Darkness to Light

Isaiah 8:21-9:7

Our \_\_\_\_\_ (8:21-9:1)

- Its \_\_\_\_\_
- Its \_\_\_\_\_

God's \_\_\_\_\_ (9:2-7)

- Its \_\_\_\_\_
- Its \_\_\_\_\_
- Its \_\_\_\_\_

## QUESTIONS FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION:

1. Read Isaiah 8:21-9:7. The metaphor of Light and Darkness is common throughout scripture. In the Bible, darkness is used to speak about the condition of our souls, our sin, and the world in which we live when we are separated from God. Light speaks of what is good and of God. When you read this passage what do you notice about light and dark? Where were the people looking to find light? When you find yourself in a tough, dark place where do you often look for "light" other than God? (Inside yourself or to the world?)
2. Imagine how shocking it must have been for readers of Isaiah before the Incarnation to read Chapter 9 and see that this "light" would be a child. It is difficult for any of us to depend on others. How much harder would it be to think that an infant would be the answer to all your struggles?
3. Christmas is a great time to think and reflect on all that God has done in sending His son. Take some time and share with your group your story about God calling you out of darkness and into light when you trusted Christ to save you?
4. Lastly, we learned that this child is a gift, and like all gifts he must be received or accepted. It is true that Jesus died for the sins of the world but passages like John 3:16-21 make it clear that only those who receive the gift of salvation by faith in Christ will be forgiven and granted eternal life. Since Christmas is a natural opportunity for us to spend time with friends and family, who are some people that you know and love who do not know the love and light of Christ and are still living in darkness? Take some time as a group and pray for the people you mentioned and ask God to shine the light of Christ upon them.