

# Great Story of God

## The Great Return

### Micah 5:2-5; Isaiah 9:6-7

# TALK IT OVER

## Study Description

*This Great Story of God comes to its fullness with the arrival of King Jesus as a baby. However, we should not forget that on this side of the resurrection, we celebrate the Advent season as hope for His eventual return. As we approach Christmas and celebrate the birth of the King, the story does not begin with Christmas and ends on Easter. This Great Story is one without end, where our Great King will “establish and uphold it with justice and righteousness from this time forth and forevermore.” (Isaiah 9:7b)*

## Passages

*“But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. And he shall be their peace. When the Assyrian comes into our land and treads in our palaces, then we will raise against him seven shepherds and eight princes of men;” – Micah 5:2-5 (ESV)*

*“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.” – Isaiah 9:6-7 (ESV)*

More of God’s truth all week long at the “Renewal Church Denver” app or “St. John’s Denver” app in your app store.

## Share: (15 Min)

- What are some highs and lows for the week?
- If the preacher had to give an abbreviated version of last week’s message, what two points or ideas would you tell him to include no matter what?

## Head: (10 Min)

- Read Micah 5:2-5 and Isaiah 9:6-7, What is the ultimate hope for Judah?
- Verse 3 speaks of giving up the people until the time when she who is in labor has given birth. What does this metaphorical language signify, and how does it contribute to our understanding of God’s redemptive plan?
- Do you think the people in exile understand the prophecy that Micah is giving them?

## Heart: (10 Min)

- Every Advent we await the birth of Christ and anticipate His return. In this season of your life, what are you currently waiting for and what are you anticipating?
- What are the promises of God while we wait for Christ to return? How do we live out those promises?

## Hands: (10 Min)

- This Christmas, remember that our hope is ultimately in Christ’s return. How can we cultivate a spirit of patience as we wait for God’s promises to be fulfilled?

## Start Praying. Be bold and pray with power. (15 Min)

### Trios: Split into same-gender groups of three. Pick a question. (15 Min)

1. Who is one non-believer or someone without a church home that you need to reach out to this week?
2. What kind of conversations are you having with people you are reaching out to?
3. Is there anything God is leading you to repent of?
4. What’s a passage of scripture that has impacted you this week? Read it to the group and explain why.
5. What’s something you’d like someone else to check in with you about this week?
6. Pray for one another.