



## FROM THE BIBLE

Isaiah 9:2 (NLT)

Isaiah 9:4 (NLT)

Isaiah 9:6-7 (NLT)

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# MESSAGE TO CONVERSATION GUIDE

Merry & Bright | Week 1 | Light Up The Darkness

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1. The Christmas season is in full swing! Have you started to decorate yet? What's your favorite & least favorite part about decorating? Are you a yard/house decorator...why or why not?
2. In this message, Joel said *just because it's 'the most wonderful time of year' doesn't mean that everything is always wonderful*. What are some things that make the Christmas season hard (or dark) for people (you can answer this personally if you'd like).
3. Read Isaiah 9:2 which is a prophecy/prediction about Jesus around 700 years before His birth. What jumps out at you about this verse & why do you think Isaiah chose to describe Jesus as a *great light*?
4. Isaiah wrote those words about Jesus 700 years before Jesus (ie the *light*) was born. Have you ever felt like darkness in your life would never end? What did you do? What do you see now that you didn't at the time?
5. Sometimes the darkness & negativity we face is magnified by the negative influences we let in our life. In this message, Joel said *what if instead of writing a Christmas list, you wrote a 'Who am I letting influence me' List?* Why do you think that list matters, especially at times of darkness?
6. Read Isaiah 9:4. Do you remember what *the army to Midian* reference means? How does this apply to how God can break through our darkness when we depend on Him?
7. Read Isaiah 9:6-7. How does Isaiah's description of the coming Messiah give you peace & hope?
8. Joel ended this message by saying that Jesus has a way of plugging into our lives & lighting up the dark. How have you seen Him do that in your life?



We're always looking for Bay Shore Group Leaders to use the 'Message To Conversation Guide' to facilitate a conversation about the message. Interested in going through our Group Leaders training? Let us know!