

SERMON GROUP STUDY GUIDE

What was the most significant thing you learned from the sermon or something in the sermon you didn't quite understand?

INTRO

Have you ever been in a situation where you felt stuck or trapped but then experienced an unexpected rescue?

DIGGING INTO THE TEXT - ISAIAH 9:1-7

Read Isaiah 8:19-22, what sources are the people turning to for guidance, and how does Isaiah describe the result of looking anywhere but to God? Isaiah highlights Zebulun and Naphtali, the first territories crushed by Assyria, as the very place God will later "honor." What does Matthew 4:12-16 confirm? Isaiah 9:2, refers to 'a great light' appearing to those walking in darkness. John 1:9 and John 8:12 clarify the identity of that light. Who is it? What do 2 Samuel 7:12-14, Isaiah 7:14 and Isaiah 9:6 have in common? How do the four titles in verse 6 unpack what it means for God Himself to be "with" us? How do Isaiah 9:6, John 1:14, and 1 Timothy 3:16 explain the mystery of how God defeats evil? Isaiah says the government rests on His shoulders (9:6) and Daniel says His kingdom will 'crush all others' (2:44). Taken together, what do these passages teach about the relationship between earthly governments and the eternal reign of Christ?

TAKEAWAYS

THE ZEAL OF THE LORD ALMIGHTY HAS ACCOMPLISHED THIS

Isaiah 9:7; 26:1; Psalm 22:31; John 19:30

Do you ever mistake your own passion for something as if were God's? How does it affect your faith to know that God is passionate/zealous, about saving sinners, not reluctant or hesitant? Do you live as if redemption is truly "done," not pending? Does knowing that God's purposes are never reactive but always intentional change the way you react to the chaos in your own life?

LET US WALK IN THE LIGHT OF THE LORD

John 8:12; Ephesians 5:8; Matthew 5:16; 1 Peter 2:9

When you look at your choices this week, which ruled you more: the darkness Christ rescued you from, or the light He commands you to walk in? What part of your public or daily life could reflect Christ more clearly than it currently does? Where has the darkness tried to regain ground in your life over the past few weeks or months? Have old patterns, attitudes, or temptations started pulling again that you need to bring to the light?