

# Week One

# KNOWING

**“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.” Isaiah 9:6**

- Have someone read Isaiah 9:2-7

- Now read Psalm 46 as a group

**W**hat does it mean to ‘know’ something? To truly and completely know? How could we define it? Well, let’s look at it this way. Say you’re standing on the edge of a cliff with some friends. Let’s say that there’s a platform a couple of feet down, but it’s foggy, so you can’t see it. And you know this platform exists, but your friends don’t. You tell them you know it’s there, but they don’t believe you. You try to convince them, you plead with them to believe you, but they say that you don’t really know that there is a landing there. How could you prove to them (and to yourself) that you know without a shadow of a doubt that it’s there? The answer is simple. You jump.

And you land on the platform. By jumping onto the landing, you prove concretely that you know it's there. And your friends will have to believe you, because you acted on the knowledge you had. That's what it means to truly know something.

And this is exactly what we see in Isaiah 9:2-7. These verses include a message from God to Isaiah, to be given to the Israelite people in the Old Testament. This passage was first spoken to a people walking in darkness, threatened by invasion and despair (the Assyrians). Isaiah's message is that there will be judgment for Jerusalem, but after that, there is a future hope in 'Immanuel' (which means "God with us"). He talked about a coming King who would bring light and peace! Isaiah didn't know the specific name at the time, but we know now that this 'Immanuel' is Jesus! In this message, Isaiah shows he knows that Immanuel will come and free all people from bondage and oppression. We can see that he knows because of the language he uses in the prophecy. He was writing about God's promises for the future, but in the original Hebrew, verses 6-7 are actually written in the past tense.

Our modern English doesn't do a great job of

translating, but that means Isaiah was so confident that God would bring Immanuel, he wrote the prophecy as if it had already happened! His actions followed his beliefs. He was 100 percent certain that God would make this happen through Jesus Christ. He lived his life in a way that showed he knew, without a shadow of a doubt, that God would send his Messiah.

This is why it's so cool that, almost 700 years later, Jesus actually came down to earth as Immanuel! And he did bring freedom from oppression and bondage, just like Isaiah described. Jesus fulfilled the promises of God that Isaiah was confident would come true.

So, what does it mean to really know? What does it look like for you? What do you claim to know? Is what you say you know different from how you live your life?

Do you know that God's promises will come true? Do you know God loves you? Do you know you are living your life for him? And then, are your actions following that? Because at its core, knowing is doing. To know something is to orient your life around it. If you know that God's promises are true, you will live like it. If you know that Jesus is your Lord and Savior, you will follow him wholeheartedly.

This Christmas season, take stock of what you say you know and whether your actions follow that knowledge. This is a great opportunity to show those around you what you know by living it out. With family, friends, coworkers, schoolmates, anyone! Live out the fact that God loves you and cares for you deeply. Live out the fact that you have been saved and have been adopted as His son or daughter. Like Isaiah, live with such confidence in God's promises that you act as though they've already been fulfilled.



## DISCUSS

- Have someone ask, “What is something you know?” Let everyone in the home answer.
- Isaiah knew this promise would come true, but it took almost 700 years! What does that teach you about the timing and reliability of God's promises?
- What is something you need to ‘jump on’ in your life to prove that you really know it is true?

## PRAYER

- Take time to pray for certainty and trust in God's promises. Pray that he would build your faith in him.
- Take turns thanking God for the promises he has kept in your life.

## PRAISE

- Read and consider the words from Promises by Maverick City Music:

*God from age to age,  
Though the earth may pass away,  
Your word remains the same  
Your history can prove there's nothing you can't do,  
You're faithful and True  
Great is your faithfulness to me*

Find the song on YouTube and listen together.