

STUDY GUIDE

Vinto
Us

UNTO US

An Introduction

This Advent/Christmas season series walks through Isaiah 9:1-7, a prophecy that was fulfilled and is being fulfilled through the birth and reign of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. We'll be reminded that God fulfills His prophecies and promises so all people will have the opportunity to be forgiven, healed, and experience the hope and peace that comes from knowing and following Jesus.

WEEK ONE – DECEMBER 3

A LIGHT HAS DAWNED

Unto
Us

Pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance as you study and reflect on God's Word.

As you think about the Advent season, what does it mean to you?

READ: Isaiah 9:1, 2 & John 1:1-5

BOTTOM LINE: The prophet Isaiah is warning the king and the people of Israel about the consequences for their unfaithfulness to God and their failure to keep His commandments. The result is the exile of Israel, only leaving a remnant—a small number of faithful people—to start over. They are told the promise of restoration will come from a "holy seed" (Isaiah 6:13). Isaiah chapter 9 describes who that Holy Seed is and the hope that can be found in Jesus, Immanuel (Isaiah 7:14, Matthew 1:22, 23). The Holy Seed, the light in the darkness, is the one who will bring both Jews and Gentiles together and usher in new life in territories that were constantly marched over, trampled on, and used as a means to an end.

As we look back at this prophecy through the lens of the Gospel, we see Jesus is the light who has dawned (John 1) and that He invites us to be light (Matthew 5).

Points for us to look at, consider, and get in touch with:

9:1 – Jesus brings restoration to our broken lives and world

9:2a – Jesus brings light in the midst of our darkness

9:2b – Jesus brings life even in death

RESPOND:

- How can you prepare yourself during this Advent season to be open to the restoration that Jesus brings? To help others find restoration?
- How can you both walk in the light of Jesus and be the light of Jesus in the world?
- How will you experience new life in Jesus and share that life with others?
- What is your "I will" statement that will help bring this about?

WEEK TWO – DECEMBER 10

A REMNANT IS PROMISED

Unto
Us

Pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance as you study and reflect on God's Word.

What have you sensed God saying to you this week as you journey through Advent?

How did you do with your "I will" statement?

READ: Isaiah 9:3 & Matthew 4:12-17

BOTTOM LINE: In the midst of a warning of exile, verse 3 promises this Holy Seed—Immanuel, Jesus—will take people and places once divided and bring them together once again. And the remnant will grow in number and their labors of work and love will produce a harvest that can care for the faithful.

Looking back at this prophecy through the lens of the Gospel, we see Jesus is the fulfillment of this promise. In Matthew chapter 4, Jesus announces the Kingdom right after He quotes Isaiah 9:1-2—what Isaiah describes in verse 3 as the beginning of the Kingdom.

Points for us to look at, consider, and get in touch with:

9:3a – Jesus unites the faithful

9:3b – Jesus rewards the work of the faithful

9:3c – Jesus provides victories for the faithful

RESPOND:

- How might we live as Kingdom people who help bring about unity in the name of Jesus?
- What do you perceive that needs to happen in order to do so?
- How have you experienced victory in the name of Jesus?
- What is your "I will" statement that will help bring this about?

WEEK THREE – DECEMBER 17

A RESTORATION IS PROMISED

Unto
Us

Pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance as you study and reflect on God's Word.

What have you sensed God saying to you this week as you journey through Advent?

How did you do with your "I will" statement?

READ: Isaiah 9:4, 5 & Matthew 11:28-30

BOTTOM LINE: In the midst of the warning of exile, verses 4 and 5 promise that this Holy Seed—Immanuel, Jesus—will usher in victory just as God fought on behalf of Gideon and his 300 soldiers against the Midianites in Judges 7 and 8. This victory that Jesus wins for us will bring freedom in our lives that removes burdens and oppression from sin. The enemy of us all that has initiated and instigates the battle with us and our sin will be defeated once and for all.

Looking back at this prophecy through the lens of the Gospel, we see Jesus is the one who breaks the yoke of our bondage and invites us to bear His yoke—which He promises is easy.

Points for us to look at, consider, and get in touch with:

9:4a – Jesus fights for us and with us

9:4b – Jesus frees us from the oppression of sin

9:5a – Jesus brings peace

9:5b – Jesus doesn't waste a thing

RESPOND:

- Why do you believe we all too often seek to fight our battles by ourselves?
- How have you experienced the freedom that Jesus offers as well as His peace?
- How would you share the freedom and peace that Jesus offers with someone who is heavily burdened?
- What does it mean to you to take the yoke of Christ on yourself?
- What is your "I will" statement that will help you as you continue your Advent journey?

WEEK FOUR – DECEMBER 24

GOD'S SON IS BORN

Unto
Us

Pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance as you study and reflect on God's Word.

What have you sensed God saying to you this week as you journey through Advent?

How did you do with your "I will" statement?

READ: Isaiah 9:6 & John 3:16-18

BOTTOM LINE: In the midst of the warning of exile, verse 6 promises that this Holy Seed—Immanuel, Jesus—is the reason for this season, the baby son that is born for us, reigning over us, and is the Savior that meets all of our needs.

Looking back at this prophecy through the lens of the Gospel, we see Jesus is the Son who was born—the Savior who was given—to save us, not to condemn us. But we must respond to Jesus or we will be condemned (John 3).

Points for us to look at, consider, and get in touch with:

9:6a – Jesus is the Gift we need

9:6b – Jesus is the King we need

9:6c – Jesus is the Savior we need

RESPOND:

- What are some ways you can celebrate Jesus as the greatest gift ever given?
- How might you share with someone the gift of Jesus for them, given by God Himself?
- How might your response to Jesus this Christmas and into the New Year go even deeper?
- What is your "I will" statement this Christmas?

WEEK FIVE – DECEMBER 31

HIS KINGDOM COMES

Unto
Us

Pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance as you study and reflect on God's Word.

What have you sensed God saying to you this week as you journey through Advent?

How did you do with your "I will" statement?

READ: Isaiah 9:7 / John 14:1-3 / Revelation 21

BOTTOM LINE: In the midst of the warning of exile, verse 7 promises that this Holy Seed—Immanuel, Jesus—is the Savior and King that will reign, be present, and be at work forever for all eternity—all because God so loved the world and had the zeal, desire, and drive to pursue and love us.

Looking back at this prophecy through the lens of the Gospel, we see Jesus is the One who established the Kingdom—which will never end and will take us there (John 14 and Revelation 21).

Points for us to look at, consider, and get in touch with:

9:7a – Jesus reigns forever

9:7b – Jesus upholds justice and righteousness forever

9:7c – Jesus is driven by a saving love for us

RESPOND:

- What does it mean to allow Jesus to reign in your life? To trust Him completely?
- What tends to get in the way?
- How would you share the importance of allowing Jesus to reign in your life with someone who doesn't know Jesus?
- What is your "I will" statement for this week as you prepare to enter into a New Year?