



Joy in the Messiah's Identity
December 17, 2023 | Isaiah 9:6-7
Questions for Study and Group Discussion

***Before discussing these questions, read through Isaiah 9:6-7 as a group.*

1. Icebreaker: List four separate ways you would introduce yourself to someone you're just getting to know.
2. Imagine you were asked by a friend what the true significance of Christmas is. What would you say, in a sentence of two?
3. Do you think it's easy for us to miss the true significance of Christmas? Why / why not?
4. To better grasp the significance of Jesus' birth, we can benefit from how the Old Testament helps prepare the way by pointing ahead to Jesus. Do you agree or disagree? Explain.
5. Read Isaiah 9:6-7. Here we see a clear picture of the promised Messiah – approximately 700 years before Jesus was born! Reflect on each of the titles (listed below) that this child is given in verse 6. In your own words, share what each of these titles tells us about Jesus:
 - Wonderful Counselor
 - Mighty God
 - Everlasting Father
 - Prince of Peace
6. Reflect on what you know about Jesus from the New Testament. In what specific ways do Jesus's actions or teachings connect to each of these qualities?
7. Is there one (or more) of these titles of Jesus that you've been overlooking or forgetting? How does reflecting on this title help you appreciate the arrival of Jesus more fully?
8. How can the truths you've discovered shape the way you approach Christmas this year? How should these truths guide your thoughts? Actions? Emotions?
9. What other questions or comments do you have about what you've looked at in the Bible?
10. What is your biggest take-away from what you've discussed so far? What practical step will you take to apply what you've seen in God's Word?
11. **Challenge:** Identify one way this passage is challenging or encouraging you. Who can you tell about what you're learning this coming week?
12. **Challenge: Memorize Isaiah 9:6:** "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."