



Talking through the weekly message helps you turn information into application. These talking points, questions, and scriptures are designed to help you make the next move.

#### City Group Icebreaker: Questions to Get You Talking

- Why do we enjoy counting down the days until something exciting?

**Key Scriptures:** *But there will be no more gloom for her who was in anguish; in earlier times He treated the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali with contempt, but later on He shall make it glorious, by the way of the sea, on the other side of Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles.<sup>2</sup> The people who walk in darkness Will see a great light; Those who live in a dark land, The light will shine on them.<sup>3</sup> You shall multiply the nation, You shall increase their gladness; They will be glad in Your presence As with the gladness of harvest, As <sup>l</sup>men rejoice when they divide the spoil. <sup>4</sup> For You shall break the yoke of their burden and the staff on their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, as at the battle of Midian.<sup>5</sup> For every boot of the booted warrior in the battle tumult, and cloak rolled in blood, will be for burning, fuel for the fire. <sup>6</sup> For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will <sup>l</sup>rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup> There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, On the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness from then on and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will accomplish this. **Isaiah 9:1-7***

**MTG Scriptures:** Read **Isaiah 9** in its entirety.

**Big Idea of the Message:** Our seasons of waiting can tempt us to rely on quick fixes or short-term solutions, instead of waiting on God to work.

#### Message Study: The Essential Questions

- What is one thing that stood out to you from this week's message?
- What attributes of God appear in this passage?
- When do you most yearn for the world to be made right?
- This week's message addressed the tension many people feel about Christianity, and Christmas in particular. What does the Bible have to say to real people in real situations? How do you struggle to connect God's promises, like in Isaiah 9:6-7, with the real circumstances you face in your life?
- What's one thing you will do this week as a result of something you learned from this message?

#### Move Up. Connect to Christ

- When are you the most impatient with God? How does your impatience impact your love for God?

**Start Praying.** *Lord, deepen my love of You and as I can better express Your love to \_\_\_\_ change me. I want to better express Your love to \_\_\_\_*

#### Move Out. Connect to Culture.

- What quick fixes or sloppy short-term solutions are you tempted to put your ultimate faith in? How do these quick fixes or sloppy short-term solutions hinder you from loving your near ones?

**Start Praying.** *Lord Jesus, I want to join You in better loving my neighbors. Teach me, as the God who is love, to better share Your love with \_\_\_\_*

#### Move In. Connect Culture to Christ.

- How do you see this season being twisted to promote other things? What can we do to keep our focus on Christ and His mission?

**Start Praying.** *Lord Jesus, I want to join You in your mission. Send me, as an ambassador to share Your good news with \_\_\_\_.*

**Application Point:** Our work on earth should be enriched by the hope that, while our work is important, it is ultimately God who will fully redeem this earth.