

Application In Community

Welcome: We are thrilled that you are here. God is good and this Christmas, we will focus on the true meaning of Christmas, which brings great joy. As Timothy Keller said, “*To understand Christmas is to understand basic Christianity, the Gospel.*” Join a group as we discuss the basic meaning of Christmas over the next 6 weeks.

If you are not part of a Home Community or Life Group, connect with Tiea. She is our Director of Connections. She will be in the Information Desk or out in the foyer at the end of the worship service or you can email her at tieah@gracechurchseattle.org –



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Application Q’s in community: We believe the truths of Christ are best contemplated and learned in community, both discussion and practice.

- 1) Ice Breaker – Turn off the lights and then ask everyone to re-arrange their seating.

Discussion – Was it awkward? Why?

- 2) Read Isaiah 9:1-7 and then Matt. 4:12-16 – what are the parallels? [i.e., how is Matthew using the OT passage related to Jesus?]

Read Matt. 4:17 and then re-read Isaiah 9:1-7 – what should be the individual response to Jesus in order to go from darkness to light?

- 3) In closing: what will you do to live by the light this Christmas season?

How could we share the light of Christ with people living in darkness this Christmas?

A Great Light Has Dawned (part 1 of 7)

Isaiah 9:1 But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.

³ You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil.

⁴ For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

⁵ For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶ For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷ Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore.
 The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

The Hidden Joy of Christmas

I. Two Parallel Tracks of Christmas

II. This World is in Darkness (8:20-9:1)

III. But a Great Light Has Dawned (9:2-5)

IV. It’s the True Gift of Christmas (9:6-7)