

Read Isaiah 9:1-7

God is speaking through Isaiah to a people who were full of gloom, distress and darkness (v1-2). In what ways is our world full of gloom, distress and darkness today?

What hope does God give this people living in darkness?

Read Matthew 4:12-16. How does Jesus fulfil this prophecy in Isaiah?

Discuss the following phrases in Isaiah 9:6-7 that describe Messiah Jesus, and what each one shows us about the person and work of Christ:

- "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given" (v6)
- "The government will be on his shoulders (v6)
- "Wonderful counsellor" (v6)
- "Mighty God" (v6)
- "Everlasting Father" (v6)
- "Prince of peace" (v6)
- "He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom" (v7)
- "With justice and righteousness" (v7)

Which of the above descriptions is most meaningful to you personally? Why?

Which of the above descriptions of Jesus is most difficult for you to understand or relate to? How could you relate to that aspect of Jesus in a deeper way?

Which of the above descriptions of Jesus is most needed in our world right now? Why?

Reuben talked about how even though Jesus has come as the light of the world, sometimes we prefer the darkness, whether that be our own sin, fear, self-pity, etc. Is there an area of 'darkness' in your life at present that the light of Christ needs to shine into?