

DISCUSSION: [Isaiah 9:1-7](#)

(Discuss the question cluster below - as much or as little as works for your group)

\*Feel free to break off into smaller groups if it helps you share more personally\*

We're starting an Advent sermon series called, "O Come Thou Long Expected Jesus." It's based off the hymn of the same name. It's a hymn that draws out themes of what the Christian hope in Jesus is all about: that our king would come and set his people free from all that ails us, that he would give us rest and comfort, that he would be the imprint of all the things our hearts have always longed for and that he would raise us up to glory with him. We will spend time in different texts that expand on these themes with the hope that in this season (where we can easily put our hope in gifts that fade) we'd find our hope in something that doesn't: Jesus Christ, the long await Savior, friend, King.

- I. This week, our passage (Isaiah 9:1-7) focused on seeing God bring light to dawn for his people walking in deep darkness through the coming of Jesus Christ as our long awaited King. We looked at the text revealing Jesus in as a dawning light through: 1) Where the light starts (v.1-2); 2) What the light looks like (v.3-5); and 3) how the light arrives (v.6-7). Through this we saw how God remembers those living in darkness, even a darkness of their own making. We saw how God's light brings joy, restoration and peace. And we saw how all this is made possible by the coming of a Jesus Christ as the God-man, who took our darkness upon himself to bring the light of God within us. Let's discuss how these things impact our lives.
  - A. What connected with you from the sermon or from the passage?
  - B. How did it strike to hear that God remembers even those who walk in a darkness of their own making?
    1. *What comfort does that give you for your own wandering from God (or the wandering of those you care about)?*
  - C. Are there any aspects of God's light on display in vv.3-5 (joy, restoration, peace), that you have written off for yourself or our world? Which ones do you find it hard to let yourself hope to see?
    1. *How might God be bringing light back to you even now, as you consider a way that you've given up a little hope in seeing these things again?*
  - D. How does it impact the way you think about yourself to know that when you believe in Jesus, the Holy Spirit makes you shine with the light of God from the inside out?
    1. *Do you tend to look at yourself through the grid of your mistakes or successes more than through the grid of Christ's powerful work on your behalf?*