

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO
ISAIAH
ADVENT 2024

Gospel Life Communities Study Guide

Isaiah 9:2-7

Jesus Saves

Welcome to the Advent 2024 GLC Season! I hope the Lord is blessing, challenging, and encouraging you through this sermon series thus far.

Our weekly studies will have four parts, following the four categories that we've set for GLC's, and then end with prayer.

exploring

We will explore God's word together, looking at the actual words of the passage each week.

digging

We will dig deeper into the word, discussing the context and meaning of the passage.

growing

We will discuss how the passage is applied to our own lives.

going

We will discuss how the passage informs, challenges, and encourages our gospel witness.



exploring

Isaiah 9:2-7 (ESV)

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.

1. Read Isaiah 9:2-7 together.

- What questions arise that require some background information?
- What is the overshadowing emotion of this passage expressed 3-4 times in one verse?
- What attributes, characteristics of God do you notice?

digging

2. What is the situation of the recipients of this prophecy?

- Wasn't Galilee part of the Promised Land given to God's people?

3. The text describes the area as a land of deep darkness.

- What are several factors that contribute to this description?
- Peter's profession of faith in Matt. 16:16 took place in this area. How might Jesus' response tie into this?

growing

4. Compare and contrast what the Bible says in other places about light and darkness.

- Romans 1:21 (see vs. 18-32 for fuller context)
 - How do hearts become darkened?
- John 1:4-5 (see vs. 1-13 for fuller context)
 - How is the darkness dispelled by the light?
- 1 John 1:5-7 (see vs. 1-10 for fuller context)
 - How does the message of light and darkness apply to Christians?

5. Think on (and perhaps read) the New Testament accounts of the birth of the Child, the Son, in Matthew 1-2 and Luke 1-2.

- Which of the characters show that they knew, trusted, and were waiting for this promised “child”?
- Name several aspects or scenes that vividly reflect the sentiment of joy, rejoicing, and gladness prophesied in verse 3 of our text.

6. What strikes you personally as the most astounding or meaningful part of this prophecy written 7 centuries before Jesus came?

7. Although Jesus’ first advent didn’t bring the expected victory over the oppressors of the first century Jews, His second advent will. He did bring full deliverance from the guilt and shame caused by sin. Have you received His deliverance from your sin?

going

8. Pastor Paul's points highlighted 3 themes that we will see and hear over and over this season: LIGHT, JOY, and PEACE, all brought by Jesus. Which of the 3 do you most need to receive from Him this Christmas?

9. Let's be sensitive to people around us as we prepare to celebrate Christ's birth.

- Does a neighbor need to hear from me about light and darkness?
- How can I intentionally reflect joy and peace to others?