

Advent: Hope

Isaiah 9:1-7

MAIN IDEAS

Read Isaiah 9:1-7.

Isaiah 9:2 speaks of people who walked in darkness. What does it mean to walk in darkness? What would it be like to always be in darkness? Consider John 3:20-21, John 11:10, and 2 Corinthians 4:4.

How does Christ bring hope to those in darkness? Consider Psalm 27:1, John 8:12, 2 Corinthians 4:6, and 1 John 1:7.

Isaiah 9:4 speaks of a yoke, a staff, and a rod. What do these things represent? Consider Isaiah 14:5-6 and Proverbs 10:13.

How does Christ bring hope to those under a yoke, staff, and rod? Consider Jeremiah 30:8-9, Matthew 11:29, and Galatians 5:1,

What do the four names in Isaiah 9:6 indicate about the Messiah?

What will be the characteristics of His reign, according to Isaiah 9:7?

PERSONAL RESPONSE

Do you walk in darkness? How would you know if you were?

What parts of your life would you prefer to keep in darkness? What hinders you from walking in the full light of Christ?

What burdens do you bear? What beats you down? What oppresses you?

What promises in Isaiah 9:2-7 bring you hope? How do they comfort you?

Read Philippians 4:8 and Deuteronomy 6:6-9.

Pick one or more verses that give you hope. Display them somewhere. Meditate on them this week.

Pray:

- Confess any areas of your life that remain in darkness. Ask God to shine His light on them and give you a change of heart.
- Ask God to grant you hope when you are in despair.

REPRODUCE

Consider times when God has given you hope. Comfort others with your story.

Encourage others with verses that give you hope.

KEY VERSES

From the sermon:

- Matthew 4:12-17
- Isaiah 6:9-13
- Isaiah 8:4
- Isaiah 9:1-7
- John 6:68-69
- Revelation 21:3-5

Additional verses from the study:

- John 3:20-21
- John 11:10
- 2 Corinthians 4:4
- Psalm 27:1
- John 8:12
- 2 Corinthians 4:6
- 1 John 1:7
- Isaiah 14:5-6
- Proverbs 10:13
- Jeremiah 30:8-9
- Matthew 11:29
- Galatians 5:1
- Deuteronomy 6:6-9
- Philippians 4:8