



## Group Guide

# Know Jesus

*July 14, 2024*

**Main Passage: Isaiah 9:1-7**

## Theological Theme

Isaiah prophesied about the birth of Jesus years in advance to give God's people hope for a different future.

## Introduction

- 1. ? What is the longest you have waited for something and what was it?
- 2. ? What is the hardest thing you've waited on? The most exciting?
- 3. ? How does knowing the length of the wait time affect your perspective?

## 1. The Hope (Isaiah 9:1-2)

Up to this point, Isaiah warned Israel about the consequences they would experience due to their rebellion and idolatry. Previous chapters record grave warnings of the coming Assyrian invasion and consequent defeat the Israelites in the Northern Kingdom would face. Imagine the disbelief, fear, angst, stress, and worry these dire predictions would bring. Knowing of negative events in advance can be harder than being taken by surprise because you have more time to build dreadful anticipation.

- 1. ? What does it teach you about God that He didn't leave the people without hope?  
What does it teach you about God that the hope He spoke of would not bring direct relief for the current generation?
- 2. ? When have you experienced hope from the Lord in a time of difficulty?
- 3. ? Application: What are you waiting on the Lord for with hope? How are all of God's people waiting with hope at this point in the story of God's redemption?

## 2. The Joy (Isaiah 9:3-5)

Joy and gladness would accompany the ministry of the promised Messiah. Given that the people were in a time of invasion and battling for their land, it makes sense that they envisioned a political or military leader who would come and bring military victory over their enemies. Even the language in these verses lends itself to that type of imagery.

- ❓ The people had misguided expectations about Jesus. What are some wrong ideas people have about Jesus today?
- ❓ How does future hope encourage you to persevere through difficulty now? What future hope empowers all followers of Christ to continue in the world?
- ❓ Application: What does the way Jesus secured victory for His people teach you about the way He wants you to live in the world?

## 3. The Glory (Isaiah 9:6-7)

Although this familiar passage is widely quoted at Christmastime, it has many implications and applications for our lives throughout the year. Isaiah painted a picture of the glory to come when the Messiah finally appeared. Even though these words were written centuries before Jesus came to the earth, they gave a robust description of the One to come.

- ❓ Which of these descriptions of the Messiah stand out to you? Does anything strike you differently as you consider this outside of the Christmas season?
- ❓ How does the anticipation of the second coming give you hope for daily life?
- ❓ Application: Where do you feel most in need of God's counsel, power, comfort, or peace today?

## Conclusion

- ❓ How would your life look different if you lived each day in true anticipation of the return of Christ? How can you seek to make that a focus moving forward?
- ❓ How can our group remind one another of the hope we have in Christ?
- ❓ Who can you have a gospel conversation with by sharing today's passage?