

LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

ADVENT SERIES

These questions are for the **November 27, 2016** sermon, "For Unto Us." Please read the sermon passage (Isaiah 9:1-7) together out loud.

AS YOU REFLECT UPON THE FAITHFULNESS OF GOD, CONSIDER . . .

1. **The promise of salvation.** (1-3)
 - A. The ultimate darkness and gloom is the human problem: death.
 - B. Humans have spent thousands of years addressing this problem from "the earth." We are no closer to fixing the problem today. And we are not gaining ground.
 - C. This problem can only be addressed by God from outside of people. The light shines in us, by God's grace. He takes the initiative. We cannot save ourselves.
2. **The place (source) of salvation.** (4-5)
 - A. Jesus has already waged and won the battle to conquer death and hell forever.
 - B. He "broke the rod" of the oppressor (4).
3. **The Person of salvation.** (6-7)
 - A. God's answer to the blanket of darkness was to provide a child. His Son, Jesus.
 - B. The names (6-7) can only describe God. Jesus is God.
 - C. From this established throne, Christ will reign forever and ever.

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: No human or earthly means of addressing problems ever seems to make progress. Have you ever put your faith or hope in "human remedies" to the problem of sin? Why do all human remedies (governments, money, wars, education, etc.) all fail?
2. Based on #1/#2, above: The essence of God's promise is God's faithfulness in sending Jesus Christ. Romans 1 teaches us that people don't like God's solution to the problem, so they find every way to discount him and refuse him. How has having faith in Jesus Christ addressed the problem of sin in your life? How has your faith been inconsistent? How is it growing?
3. Based on #2, above: How does knowing that Jesus Christ has secured the victory free you from thinking that you have to "earn" God's favor? How does this freedom make Christmas sweeter?
4. Based on #3, above: Jesus is God. He is 100% human and 100% divine. His reign will endure forever. Thank God for Jesus and the work he has accomplished. Lift up a song of praise to him together. Celebrate God's power, authority and love in Jesus Christ.