

LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

Advent Series

These questions are for the **December 6, 2020** sermon, "Songs of the Servant, Part 2." Please read the sermon passage (Isaiah 49:1-7) together out loud.

Sermon Outline

AS WE CONSIDER THE MESSIAH, THE SERVANT OF THE LORD, NOTE . . .

1. The description provided of the Servant. (1-4)
 - a. All the people scattered throughout the world are called to "listen intently."
 - b. This Servant is placed within the womb, called by God.
 - i. Military metaphor: his words are a "sharp sword," bringing victory (Rev 19).
 - ii. Military metaphor: he is like a "polished arrow," reserved for the victory.
 - c. "Surely my right is with the Lord": He lives only for the approval of His Lord.
2. The mission entrusted to the Servant. (5-6)
 - a. National mission: to bring Israel (Jacob) back to the Lord.
 - b. International mission: a light to the nations, bringing salvation to the ends of the earth.
3. The honor received by the Servant. (7)
 - a. Though rejected by "the nation," this Servant is worshiped by world leaders.
 - b. The Lord who is faithful has chosen Him (see Philippians 2:5-11).

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: 2020 has not been characterized merely by a virus, racial tensions or a US election. It's been characterized by a God who completely and sovereignly keeps his promises. How has God shown you his faithfulness throughout 2020?
2. Based on #1, above: We are called to "listen intently" to the Lord. What are some of the voices and noise which are currently drowning out the Lord's voice from your ears? How can you become more conscious of God's voice? What steps do you need to take to drown-out the noise? What steps do you need to take to hear God's voice?
3. Based on #2, above: Jesus' mission was not primarily to be born in a manger in Bethlehem. It involves bringing Israel back to God and being a light to all the nations. Bethlehem was only the beginning. You are an advocate, a "learner of" Christ's kingdom and Christ's mission. Are you clear about Jesus' national and international mission? What role do you play right now in the international aspect of the Servant's mission?
4. Based on #3, above: The whole world tries to deny, cover, minimize and rationalize the supremacy of the Servant of God. This Servant will eventually receive full honor and worship from the whole earth, including kings and queens. How does a mature Christ-follower process things when people refuse to honor Jesus now? [Note: you are not always called to win the debates, but to go on joyfully, graciously and lovingly serving the Lord.]
5. If John the Baptist called people to "prepare the way" for Christ's first coming, believers today ought to "prepare the way" for Christ's Second coming. What does it mean to be "ready" when Christ returns?