

Discussion Guide
“*EXPECTANT: INVITED TO PARTICIPATE*”
December 18, 2022



Big Idea

Advent is an invitation to participate.



Icebreaker

Share about the best sunrise you ever experienced. Where was it? Who was it with (if anyone)? Etc.



Discussion Questions

1. Read Isaiah 9:1-2. What is God, through the prophet, promising here that is to come? Why did the people of Isaiah's time need such a message? Share a past “gloom” you were afflicted with that has experienced relief (or light). Is there a current “gloom” you are working through, needing God to shed some light on that we could all pray about?
2. Read Isaiah 9:3-4. Describe in your own words what picture of the future God, through Isaiah, paints here for Israel. Did “Midian's defeat” happen before, during, or after the time of Isaiah 9? Upon answering that, what tactic does that mean God is using here to encourage the Israelites? How can this tactic apply to your life today? What can you do to tap into that tactic?
3. What and through whom has God provided you the ultimate deliverance from sin? Was it the way we would have imagined God would accomplish that for us? How should realizing that He accomplished our deliverance from sin in a manner differently than we could have imagined, shape how we contemplate Jesus' second coming?
4. Read Isaiah 9:5. Israel, as we often likely do, looked for a great warrior-type conquering hero. What do these verses speak of regarding the “boots of war” and why is that significant as we think about our current day and Jesus' second coming? What do this and the following versus
5. Read Isaiah 9:6-7. In your own words, how does it impact you to know that Jesus is (talk through one at a time): a) Your Wonderful Counselor, b) Your Mighty God, c) Your Everlasting Father, d) Your Prince of Peace. What does it mean to you to know that He is that for all people? Does reflecting upon this motivate you toward anything?
6. Read Matthew 4:12-17 (ESV translation). What implication(s) does “...*the kingdom of heaven is at hand.*” have for us today? Who is the “kingdom of heaven” with? What is to be done based on that?



Concluding Question

Read Matthew 5:14-16. As you expectantly await Jesus' Second Advent where are some places and what are some ways that you can let the light of Jesus shine through you, that you are currently not? What is stopping you?



Application

1. What do you think the Holy Spirit may be saying to you through this sermon and our discussion?
2. What is something God wants you to do now?
3. Is there a way we can help each other apply what God is showing us?



Prayer

With Christmas Eve Services approaching please pray that visitors (who will you invite??) will hear & respond to the Gospel!