

Small Group Questions

Week of Sunday, December 3rd, 2023

Launch

Isaiah 9 is a hope-filled, royal coronation passage inserting redemptive promise into the midst of a series of passages declaring judgment to come on God's people. Note the royal language, the image-filled descriptions, the lofty titles. While in other ancient literature such a passage might have been read as hyperbole or flattering, in Jesus Christ we believe these words describe accurately, "the Word made flesh."

As a fun way to begin your discussion, share the worst piece of advice you've ever been given, or if you can't come up with anything, who has been your best advisor in life?

Observe (READ Isaiah 9:2-7)

1. What is it about the tone of this passage that strikes you?
2. What is some of the imagery that Isaiah uses to speak of God's deliverance?
3. List the effects of the reign of the royal child to come.

Process

1. List some other Scriptures that speak of Jesus's majesty or glory. (You can use your phones).
2. What do you imagine is anticipated in the phrase, "and the government will be on his shoulder?" Can you think of other Biblical examples where ruling language is used?
3. This week we'll ponder "Wonderful Counselor." What do you think Isaiah intended in this title? How do you see it fulfilled in Jesus?

4. What is captivated in the descriptor, “wonderful?”
5. What thoughts and ideas do we bring to “counselor?”

Respond

1. If Jesus is truly a “wonderful” counselor, how should I approach my own need for wisdom, insight, advice from God?
2. Have you ever experienced a time when someone with either more wisdom, experience, or age (or all three) stepped in and offered insight that was liberating mentally or emotionally? How much more true can that be of the counsel of the Lord and His Word?
3. Can you share examples of when you’ve gone to God’s Word for counsel first? Is this a practice you need to commit to? If you’re comfortable sharing with the group, is there an area of your life that may be benefited (or perhaps has benefited) with Christian counseling?