



Small Discipleship Groups Sermon Guide Questions 4 DECEMBER 2022



"The Zeal of the Lord"

Conversation starter to begin:

What are you looking forward to this Advent and Christmas?

What "dawn of a new day" are you anticipating on the 2023 calendar?

Next:

Read **Isaiah 9:2-7** aloud more than once. Before you begin, pray and ask God to illuminate you, to show you where he has been at work and present in the previous days, and through others; ask Him to illuminate the Scripture to you. Pause in your prayer, listen, and pursue His leading.

“The Zeal of the Lord”

4 DECEMBER 2022

1. Read Isaiah 8:19-22. What does Isaiah mean by the “darkness” in which the people walk?
2. How does Isaiah describe the effects of the dawning light [Is 9:3-5; see Judges 7:19-25 for Midian’s defeat]?
3. In the context of the Assyrian threat, what does this light mean [see Is 10:26-27]? How is the light defined in verses 6-7?
4. What expectations would this arouse in you if you had first heard Isaiah pronounce it? What type of son or ruler would you expect to arise?
5. How does the New Testament interpret what this prophecy means? (see Mt 4:12-17; Lk 1:32; Jn 8:12)? Of the titles given in verse 6, which fit Jesus as you know him?
6. How has he shattered some of the “yokes that burden you”? What is one yoke that you desire to have him shatter now?
7. Spend some time in prayer. Thank God, and ask Him to continue to speak to you from His word in this passage. Ask Him to awaken you to His passionate commitment to bring deep peace and penetrating hope to your heart and to all of creation. Go forth with the knowledge and conviction that the zeal of the Lord Almighty will... accomplish... this.

