

12.09.18 - Advent - Christian

For Advent:

If you're not in a small group, or if your group is taking a break this month, feel free to use these as personal devotional questions, or with your family or housemates.

Leader Prep Section

- Prepare by reading through the questions and scripture passage so that you can select a few questions that are best suited to your group. No need to do all the questions if you don't have time!
- Try to work through at least one question from each of the sections - Hook, Book, Look, Took in order to move from observation to application.
- When possible spend time in prayer for each member of your group.

Goal / Focus: The Fourth Child: The Davidic Hope

Hook - Ice breaker type questions to help make the transition into the study time.

- What are some things that stood out to you from Sunday's sermon?
- What's your favorite Christmas song and why?

Background / Reading

Read: Isaiah 9:1-7

- Does anyone have any questions about this passage? Or observations that stand out to you immediately? (Remind those who share that we'll likely return to their ideas in our discussion!)

Book - These questions are designed to get you into the text itself.

- Read through the passage again, this time looking specifically for how the Messiah will bring hope to Israel. Make notes as you go and share the examples you find.
- In v. 6, there are four names given to the coming Messiah - "Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace". What do each of these images reveal to us about the character of the Messiah?

Look - These questions will take you on a deeper look at what the passage means for us today.

- When you read v. 2, what good news do you see for our world and for your own life?
- Read v. 7. Consider the upheaval of leaders and kings that Israel has experienced in its history at this point (exile in Egypt and Babylon, a few kings that were good leaders, but most of them were corrupt in some way). What do you think it would feel like to hear about this coming Messiah if YOU were living in Israel at this time?

Took - These questions are focused on applying the big idea from the text to our lives.

- Read v.6 again. Which title do you feel you connect with most? And which could you grow to embrace more?
- Think of a time when you have walked through "the land of deep darkness". How did Jesus bring light and hope to you?

- Prayer time: Perhaps you feel like you are currently living in a land of deep darkness. What would it look like for Jesus to bring hope into that darkness? Can we pray for you? (People may share some vulnerable, heavy things. We suggest offering to pray for each person individually right after they have shared before moving on to the next person. If you are using these questions for your personal devo time, consider sharing your answer with someone and praying together).