



SDG Discussion Guide

Isaiah 9:2-7

December 16, 2018

For starters:

When were you in need of, or grateful for, a flashlight?

When have you gotten up early to greet the sunrise?

What “dawn of a new day” are you anticipating on the 2019 calendar?

Guideline: The following questions are meant to provide points of further interaction with the respective sermon text and surrounding passage. Feel free to forward the questions to your small group members ahead of the respective Sunday. Group members may also find these questions in print on that Sunday.

As you can, read aloud the passage in your group; read it aloud a second time but from a different Bible translation (eg, read from the Message after first reading from the ESV). Before you begin your discussion, pray and ask God to speak to your group. Notice, what may God be highlighting for your discussion and learning?

Now that you have read the text together, what points and questions arose? Spend plenty of time in your group to address *these*. Explore and see how God may steer the discussion. The following are further questions for interaction.

1. See chapter 8 verses 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 (vv 3-5; see Jdg 7:19-25 for Midian’s defeat)? In the context of the Assyrian threat, what does this light mean (see 10:26-27)?
3. What will be the light? How is he 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? How would his future rule and counsel compare with past alliances and plans (see 8:7-10)? How would this make you feel?
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. What is the purpose of his reign in your life? In the world? What does it mean that there will be no end to the “increase and peace” of his reign?
7. How has he shattered some of the “yokes that burden you”? What is one yoke that you desire to have him shatter now?

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.

*These questions were adapted from *The Serendipity Bible for Groups* (Zondervan, 1998).