



Life Group  
Sermon Guide Questions  
14 DECEMBER 2025



## Let Earth Receive Her King

### Questions for Further Discussion: Read Isaiah 9:1-7

If you could ask Mary one question about raising Jesus, what would it be? (Reference Max Lucado's 25 questions from the sermon introduction.)

### Part 1: The Light in Our Darkness (Isaiah 9:1-2)

- 1) The sermon described the Jezreel Valley (Armageddon) as a place of constant warfare and deep darkness. What are the "dark valleys" in our world today where people desperately need light?
- 2) Where in your own life do you feel like you're walking in darkness right now? How does knowing that Jesus is the "invincible light" change your perspective on that situation?
- 3) Read John 1:5 together. What does it mean practically that "the darkness has not overcome" the light of Christ? How have you experienced this truth?

# Let Earth Receive Her King - PART 3: ISAIAH SPEAKS

## 14 DECEMBER 2025

---

### **Part 2: The Source of Our Joy (Isaiah 9:3)**

4) The sermon emphasized that Jesus is the author of great joy. What's the difference between happiness (based on circumstances) and joy (rooted in Christ)? Can you share an example from your life?

5) C.S. Lewis said we are "half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us." What are some places people (or you personally) look for joy instead of finding it in Jesus?

6) Many people struggle with sadness during the holiday season. How can we minister to those who are hurting while still celebrating the joy that Christ brings?

7) Look up one of these "joy passages" together and discuss what it teaches about Christ-centered joy:

-John 15:11

-Romans 15:13

-1 Peter 1:8-9

-Philippians 4:4

### **Part 3: Our Liberation from Oppression (Isaiah 9:4-5)**

8) Understanding Oppression: Isaiah uses vivid language: "yoke of burden," "staff," "rod of the oppressor," "boots of war," "garments soaked in blood." What are the modern-day equivalents of these oppressors in people's lives?

9) The Greatest Oppressor: Pastor Chad mentioned that sin is "more oppressive than the strongest armies, deadlier than the most incurable disease." Why is sin such a powerful force? Why can't we overcome it on our own?

# Let Earth Receive Her King - PART 3: ISAIAH SPEAKS

14 DECEMBER 2025

---

10) Complete Deliverance: Review the list of what Jesus rescues us from (slavery to sin, curse of the law, empty religion, darkness, judgment, shame, death). Which of these resonates most with your personal story? Why?

11) Freedom in Christ: The minister in the sermon illustration had preached for 40 years but still feared death and doubted his salvation. Why do you think believers sometimes struggle to embrace the complete freedom Christ offers? How can we help each other live in this freedom?

## **Part 4: Marveling at the Manger**

12) The sermon repeatedly emphasized that we should “marvel at the manger.” What does it mean to marvel at something? How can we cultivate a sense of wonder about Jesus, especially if we’ve heard the Christmas story many times?

13) Handel’s Transformation: George Frideric Handel was bankrupt, rejected, recovering from a stroke, and deeply depressed when he encountered Isaiah 9. After 24 days with Scripture, he emerged transformed, having composed “Messiah.” What does this story teach us about the power of God’s Word to transform our darkest moments?

### **Personal Inventory:**

- What is your darkness right now?
- What is your sorrow?
- What is your burden?
- What is your oppression?

**The Gospel Response:** Isaiah’s message is simple: “Unto us a Child is born.” The answer is in the glory found in the manger.

- Light has come.
- Freedom has come.
- Joy has come.

**Will you receive this glorious King?**



UNION CHURCH  
OF MANILA