

Isaiah 9:1-7 Discussion Guide

Pray

Apart from God, we can do nothing. Pray for the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion. Throughout your time together, continue asking God for help.

Read Scripture

Read Isaiah 8:11- 9:7 together with special focus on 9:1-7.

Bible Study: The HEAR Method

The bulk of your time will be spent discussing God's Word together. HEAR is an inductive Bible study method that looks closely at what the Bible says to discover what it means so that we can faithfully apply it to our lives.

HEAR stands for:

- **Highlight:** read and observe everything in the passage carefully.
- **Examine:** based on your observations, discover what the passage means in its context.
- **Apply:** determine how the meaning of the passage applies to your life.
- **Respond in prayer:** pray God's Word back to Him.

Remember:

- Walk through the Bible study together using the HEAR method and talk about what stuck out most to you in the passage.
- Make sure you move discussion to the application section of your study.
- Affections, beliefs, and practices: Make sure to apply the passage to all your life.

Pray

- Take time to pray for one another and ask for His grace to apply His Word to our daily lives.

Open: What reasons do people have today to see the world as gloomy and dark? How do people attempt to deal with this perception of darkness?

Study:

- 1) What are the reversals promised in verses 1-2?
- 2) What will these reversals involve (see vs. 3-5)? What effect will this have upon the people? Why will it be so pronounced?

Background: Zebulun and Naphtali were the two most northerly of the twelve tribes of Israel (and part of the region of Galilee). So when the Assyrian army came, it came first to Zebulun and Naphtali. The darkness would have fallen on them first.

- 3) Read 1 Kings 9:10-13. What does this tell us about the towns of Galilee? How does this affect the way you read and understand Isaiah 9:1-5?

After the darkness of judgment proclaimed in chapter 8, the light of grace will dawn (Isaiah 9:1-7). Israel will be filled with joy because "a child is born...a son is given" (vs. 6).

- 4) What do the four "titles" of this son in verse 6 tell us about who he is and what he will do? Why would these titles have been so significant for the people hearing Isaiah's prophecy?

- 5) Look at the political language used in vs. 6-7. How will this child bring about the changes God has promised?
- 6) Read Luke 1:26-33 and Matthew 4:12-13. What links can you spot between these passages of Scripture and Isaiah 9?
- 7) What is so significant about the title “Wonderful Counselor”? How might this have given hope to those hearing Isaiah’s prophecy?
- 8) What’s the point of calling Jesus “Mighty God” and “Everlasting Father” in vs. 6?

Apply:

- 9) What conflicts are particularly difficult in your life right now? How does it help you to remember that Jesus is the Wonderful Counselor, Almighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace?
- 10) How does this passage help you to more fully “put my trust in him (8:17)”? How about in the face of trial or suffering?
- 11) How might this passage help people around you who are filled with fear (could be about political or social issues) about the world we live in? What comfort does this passage bring to Christians living today?
- 12) How does this passage help us when we are struggling with sin or guilt or feeling far away from God?

PRAY:

- Take time thank God the He truly is the One who always keeps His promises.
- Take time to thank God that He’s going to come back again and set all things right.
- Ask God for the Spirit’s help to remember the hope that we have in Jesus.
- Ask God to give you love and boldness to share the hope you have for life in Jesus.

Note: Most questions taken from *Isaiah: Here is your God* Bible study guide by Tim Chester.