



FIRST LIGHT CHURCH

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

Date:12/22/2024

Series: The Scarlet Thread of Christmas

Text:Isaiah 9:6-7; Luke 2:11-14

BIG IDEA: God's Savior For Us Is Thread Throughout "His-Story" In Jesus.

ICEBREAKER: What is your least favorite Christmas song? Why?

CONTEXT: The passage in Isaiah predicts the birth of Jesus, and it goes on to describe His future greatness as the governing King of Israel and all the world. The passage could be referring to a human king at first, but the words "Mighty God" and "Everlasting Father" point directly to His deity. As we look to Luke 2, The Lord of hosts is now being proclaimed and announced by the multitude of heavenly hosts—"a child is born..a Son is given" and then He came into this world as the Savior of humanity and the Prince of Peace in the form of a baby. How exciting it is to see the Isaiah passage come to fruition in Luke 2! The passage in Isaiah was written to the Israelites who had been living in exile under Babylonian captivity and these were dark times, yet the passage also refers to the future nation of Israel whose people would also be looking for a Savior. The shepherds mentioned in the verses surrounding the scripture passage in Luke 2 are indicative of the culture of people who had been looking for the long-awaited Messiah under the cruel and tyrannical rule of Herod who was backed by Rome. Today, we are similar to those who were living in the time of Christ's birth in our continued watching for the return of our Savior.

PASSAGE: Have volunteers read Isaiah 9:6-7 and Luke 2:11-14.

DISCUSSION:

1. Why do you think the majority of Israel did/does not look at Jesus as the Savior or Messiah? Why does the majority of the world still not recognize His Lordship and authority?
2. Luke 2:11-14 highlights the announcement of Jesus' birth to the shepherds. What does the awe-inspiring proclamation of the angels reveal about the significance of Jesus' birth? How can we carry this sense of awe and worship in our daily lives?
3. In what ways will our world be different with Christ finally seated as the reigning King? (Read Zechariah 14:9). (Revelation 21:4-5).
4. Why is the name of Jesus so important? Read- Is. 9:6, Acts 4:7-12, Luke 2:11 and Matt. 1:21 for reference.What ways can we lift high the name of Jesus in our world?
5. Isaiah 9:7, states the "zeal of the Lord Almighty" will establish the promise of the Messiah's reign of peace. How does understanding God's passionate commitment to His promises influence your faith?
6. Since we have the promise of the Messiah coming a second time, how should this change your perspective on how you view life's difficulties?
7. With whom does God's peace rest? Why is the Lord pleased with them? Refer to Luke 2:14.
8. The peace proclaimed in Luke 2:14 is "among those with whom He is pleased." In a world often filled with conflict, how do you understand the peace that Jesus offers? What role do you think believers play in bringing that peace to others?

COMMUNITY CONNECTION:

In this season of Advent, we have looked joyfully at Christ's triumphant return and are celebrating His first arrival on Christmas. Jesus is the reason that we have peace and joy which comes from the hope of spending eternity with Him as He reigns in Heaven and on Earth as the glorious King. Many in our world do not have peace or joy because they have no real hope. Take time to reflect on the joy and peace that comes from knowing Jesus as your Savior and then let that peace and joy exude from you as you interact with your co-workers, classmates, neighbors and others with whom you have contact.

CARE AND PRAY:

- Ask God to create opportunities for you to share your faith and for you to be sensitive to the Holy Spirit's voice.
- Pray that during this Christmas season, you will be keenly aware of God's plan to save people and what your part in that looks like in a practical way (charity, serving, and encouragement).
- Pray for the upcoming outreach events in the life of our church—Christmas Eve Services, Upward Sports.
- Pray that God will bring people who are willing to serve in the different ministries of our church.
- Pray for God to restore the joy of your salvation and renew your spirit so that you can be a light in a dark world.