

JOY *to the* WORLD

ADVENT 2024

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OVERVIEW

During Advent, we will study Isaiah 9 and the many reasons we have to praise God for revealing himself to us through the person and work of Christ. Each week's sermon will feature Isaiah 9:3-7 from a different version of the Bible and focus on a unique aspect of Christ our King. The questions and prayer prompts in this guide are the same for each week. Focus your discussion, life applications, and prayers on the unique attribute of Jesus featured in that week's sermon.

READ

Isaiah 9:3-7

- Week 1: English Standard Version
- Week 2: New International Version
- Week 3: Christian Standard Bible
- Week 4: The Message
- Week 5: English Standard Version

DISCUSS

1. When you read Isaiah 9:3-7 in different versions of the Bible, what unique nuances of the text do you observe?
2. How does the attribute of Jesus highlighted in this week's sermon move you to praise God? What does this attribute teach you about God's nature and God's ways?
3. What is theologically significant about the attribute highlighted in the sermon? If this were not true about Jesus, what implications would this have for faith and life?
4. In what ways did Jesus's life and ministry on earth fulfill the attribute highlighted in the sermon?
5. In what ways will Jesus completely fulfill the prophetic hope of the attribute

highlighted when he returns to establish his kingdom on earth as it is in heaven?

6. How does the attribute highlighted speak to a current issue or challenge in your life? In what ways does this attribute give you hope, joy, peace, or comfort?
7. How does this attribute motivate you to follow Jesus? What would that look like in your life in this season?

PRAY

1. Praise Jesus for the unique aspect of his character discussed in this week's sermon.
2. Ask God to help you to know him better and to reflect his character in your life.
3. Confess struggles or shortcomings the Spirit revealed through this week's sermon.
4. Give thanks to God for this holy season and pray for the renewal of your mind and heart even amidst holiday stressors.
5. Pray for opportunities to share the hope of the gospel with coworkers, friends, family, and others in this season of holiday gatherings.
6. In light of Christ's advent, pray for his kingdom to come and his will to be done in various spheres of your life: family, friendships, neighborhood, community, church, nation, world, and others.
7. Thank God for his faithfulness to his Word and express hope in his promises for the future.

PREPARE

Before next week's sermon, read aloud or sing the words of the Christmas carol listed below. Then offer up a prayer based on the lyrics.

Week 1: "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

Week 2: "Joy to the World"

Week 3: "Hark the Herald Angels Sing"

Week 4: "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus"

Week 5: "Silent Night"