

## Christmas: God's Answer to Evil December 20, 2020 Discussion Notes

Everyone is encouraged to bring a Bible

(Phone apps are good for reading together in the same translation. Study Bibles give help with interpretation.)



### CHRISTMAS: GOD'S ANSWER TO EVIL

THROUGH THE INCARNATION, GOD...

- STANDS WITH US DURING EVIL
- SYMPATHIZES WITH US IN EVIL
- SHOWS HOW TO NAVIGATE EVIL
- SAVES US FROM OUR OWN EVIL
- SECURES VICTORY OVER EVIL

### Questions:

1. What is something great that has happened to you this year?
2. What is something disappointing or difficult that has happened to you this year?
3. The sermon examined how the story of Christmas addresses the problem of evil (i.e., how could a good God allow so much suffering in the world?). Review the points in the outline above. What stood out to you in the sermon? Do you have any questions about it?
4. Read Isaiah 9:1-7 (Isaiah had been prophesying about God's judgment, but in chapter 9 he sees a complete reversal: God was planning to do something amazing)
  - a) What contrasting images did Isaiah use to set the scene of his prophecy? (9:2)
  - b) How does Isaiah describe the Ruler who will be provided by God for His people? (9:6-7)
  - c) What attributes of God are apparent in this passage?
  - d) How is God's promise of the coming child an answer to evil in the world?
  - e) In what ways did Jesus fulfil the different parts of this prophecy? (see Matthew 4:12-16, Luke 1:76-79, Matthew 11:25-30, Luke 2:11, and Luke 1:30-33)
  - f) In what ways has knowing Jesus helped you to have peace amid evil and suffering in the world?
5. Take some time to pray for anyone in your group or elsewhere who is suffering right now. Ask that the Prince of Peace would be with them and comfort them. Pray that the many people in our world who are in darkness would see the light of Christ.
6. Wish each other a Merry Christmas!