

December 15, 2019 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.)



Questions:

1. What is one of your favorite Christmas memories from when you were a kid? Share with the group.
2. Does anyone in the group struggle this time of year because it reminds them of past pain or grief? What happened?
3. What do you remember about each of the main points of the sermon? (seen above). What in the sermon challenged you? Do you have any questions to bring up?
4. The sermon mentioned the genealogy of Jesus found in Matthew 1 (which highlights some instances of sinful and embarrassing history). Why do you think Matthew include these stories? What is the message?
5. Read Isaiah 7:1-2 and Isaiah 7:10-14.
 - a) Why were King Ahaz and the people afraid? What was their root problem?
 - b) How did the Lord try to encourage them?
 - c) If God came to you and said you could ask for a sign –any sign, even a sign as “deep as Sheol or as high as heaven,” what do you think you would ask for?
 - d) Why did Ahaz say he did not want to ask for a sign?
 - e) Do you see any problem with his reasoning? What about it made Isaiah angry?
 - f) Who did Isaiah broaden his response to in v. 13? Why do you think he did this?
 - g) What did God promise to do anyway in v. 14? (Note: This prophecy may have had an initial fulfillment in Isaiah’s day, but Biblical prophecy often has more than one fulfillment. An earlier fulfillment serves as a sign of a greater fulfillment to come).
 - h) What does Immanuel mean? (see Matthew 1:21-23)
 - i) How can this name of the Lord encourage you personally?
6. Read Isaiah 9:6-7
 - a) What does it mean that the Messiah would have the government on his shoulders? (see Isaiah 22:22, Matthew 28:18, and John 18:36-37).
 - b) Discuss how Jesus fulfilled each of these names: Immanuel, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
 - c) How do these qualities of Jesus contrast with those of King Ahaz, other biblical kings, and modern-day governmental leaders?
7. Read Isaiah 11:1-5
 - a) What is meant by “the stump of Jesse”? (see 1 Chronicles 29:26 and Isaiah 6:9-13). What picture does this paint of the situation before Christ came?
 - b) In what way was the Messiah to come from this stump? (see Luke 1:26-27, Luke 31-32, Revelation 5:5 and Revelation 22:16)
 - c) According to this passage, what would be the values of the Messiah’s kingdom?
 - d) Where would the Messiah’s power come from? (see v. 2 and Luke 4:14)
 - e) How can we as Christians better live out these values in honor of our King?
8. Share prayer requests and pray together. Pray that we would all be in awe of Christ and have supernatural power to live out the values of his kingdom.