

## COMMUNITY GROUP GUIDE

### ① Christmas series - Isaiah

#### INTRODUCTION | A Great Light : Prince of Peace

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Today's scripture passage leads us through the announcement of the King full of love and peace who is coming to save His people. First, even I. The midst of darkness that covers our lives and the difficulties that are seen in the world around nonetheless there is a shining light of hope. Secondly, it is God that brings about our salvation. It is God who gives hope and applies the gospel. It is by the grace of God that salvation and joy are brought about. Thirdly, our unchanging hope and salvation solely depends on the son of God. "And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace" are names applied to Christ in whom we come.

#### SCRIPTURE | Isaiah 9:1-7

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9.1 Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honor Galilee of the nations, by the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan—2 The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. 3 You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder. 4 For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor. 5 Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire. 6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7 Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.

#### QUESTIONS |

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- 1: (1-2) The prophet Isaiah describes the contrast between hope and suffering. How is this contrast described and where is the emphasis placed? In the 8th century BC the Assyrian kingdom conquered and deported the northern kingdom of Israel.
- 2: (v2) For those in the midst of suffering in darkness how can they find hope and light? How do you find light and hope in suffering? (Ref: Genesis 1:1-3)
- 3: (3-5) What is God's promise to those in despair? This promise finds its completion and fulfillment in Christ's life, death, resurrection and glorification. What kind of praise can we offer in response?
- 4: in verse 4 the prophet Isaiah reminds the reader of 2 past historical acts of God's salvation. The first was God's leading the people out of Egypt in the Exodus and the second was God's defeat of the Midian enemy by the judge Gideon and the small 300 man army. Looking at this verse, how can we say God looks to bring about salvation? Does this salvation fill us with joy?
- 5: (6-7) how is Jesus Christ prophesied in these verses? Discuss the parts of Christ's life we can see foreshadowed in these verses. (Ref Matthew 4:14-17)
- 6: in today's verses we can see the God man king born as a child and begin to see how God's ultimate salvation will be brought about. Are you suffering or in despair?  
Share without reservation with those around you and pray let's pray for one another.

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### REFERENCES |

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#### **Genesis 1:1-3**

1 In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. 2 The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. 3 And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.

#### **Matthew 4:14-17**

14 what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: 15 "The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—16 the people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light, and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death, on them a light has dawned."

17 From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

### PRAYER |

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- Jesus is called "Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace". Think about what kind of joy this brings about and in light of that praise the name of the Lord. Where in life suffering and despair overshadow Jesus is the great and shining light. Believe and be saved and praise God.
- Confess and bring to the Lord the pain and difficulties of your life. Just as Israel was separated from God to you in separation from Christ must repent. As you reflect on the suffering and pain of Christ's death and that through this He fulfilled our salvation, was raised to eternal glory remember that it was not till after the pain that joy was to be had.

### UPCOMING EVENTS | This Week & Next Week

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- 1- Grace City Gospel choir (30th)
- 2- Baptism preparation class (12/1)
- 3- Lunchtime meeting (Kasumigaseki 12/2, Otemachi 12/3)
- 4- Sunday worship location (12/6 Ginza Phoenix Hall)
- 5- Obento Project 12/5
- 6- Community group leaders meeting (12/7)
- 7- Lunchtime meeting (12/9 Marunouchi, 12/10 Otemachi)
- 8- Christmas gospel choir concert (12/12)
- 9- Sunday worship location (12/13 KDDI Hall)