

ISAIAH 9:1-7

HOPE

Warm-Up Question:

- ▶ Share some ways you prepare for Christmas, both with physical and spiritual things.

READ: Isaiah 9:1-7

- ▶ Describe from the passage and what Brandon mentioned about the cultural context what “darkness” God’s people were facing.
- ▶ Imagine facing an invasion from a foreign army and most of the people around you were godless. Your children ask at dinner, “Is there any hope in our darkness?” Discuss how you might respond.

Biblical hope = Confident expectation in God — Rooted in:

1. God’s past faithfulness
2. God’s future promises

- ▶ What points might you bring up with your children in that discussion about of God’s past faithfulness? What future promises are there in Is. 9:1-7 and how might they bring hope?
- ▶ How does this prophecy describe who we know Jesus to be (v. 6-7)?
- ▶ Go around and share some ways you have felt “darkness” this year.
 - ▶ Share how your’ve experienced God’s past faithfulness.
 - ▶ What promises of God do you most cling to, or need to?
- ▶ **Discuss the “Going Deeper” to the right.**

Going Deeper

In Joy to the World, it speaks to the hope of light coming into our darkness, saying, *“No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground. He comes to make his blessings flow, far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found.”*

- ◆ How might you have let an area of “sin and sorrow grow” this year?
- ◆ What might God’s “blessings flow” look like in those or other areas of darkness in the new year?

