

**SERMON:** Light as Hope  
**SERIES:** Christmas Lights  
**SPEAKER:** Pastor Mark

December 9, 2018

**CONNECT** (5-10 minutes): Help the members of the group grow in relationships with one another so all people in the group know they matter. Spend some time discovering what is happening in the lives of your group members. Share how God has been revealing himself in each other's lives.

**REVIEW** (15-20 minutes): Use this time to review the passage and the sermon outline (see below).

Note: this is a great opportunity to share leadership.

Use these simple questions to review the sermon/passage or for if you don't have much time:

1. What does this passage teach you about God? About us?
2. How does this passage point us to the gospel? How does it challenge you? Change you?

**SCRIPTURE:** Isaiah 9:1-7

**SERMON OUTLINE:**

I. The Power of Darkness      II. The Power of Light      III. God's Chosen Child

**GROW** (45-60 minutes): Use this time to go deeper with your group. Use these questions to discuss the sermon/passage:

1. Hope is a confident expectation of a future event. What are you hoping for this Christmas season (or beyond)? Why can only hope in God fully satisfy us?
2. Have you ever been overwhelmed by literal darkness? If we see darkness as a picture of sin and evil, where do you feel the overwhelming nature of this darkness?
3. In Isaiah 9 the light of God is a child. Of course, we know this is fulfilled in Jesus and the incarnation. Why is it so important that our light is a person and not anything else (a system, a theology, a moral code, a philosophy, etc.)?
4. Re-read Isaiah 9:3-5. In what way is the light of God completely life altering? How can you relate these verses to the life and work of Christ on the cross?
5. Re-read Isaiah 9:6-7. How do each of these titles describe Jesus? How do they bring you hope today?  
Wonderful Counselor-  
Mighty God-  
Everlasting Father-  
Prince of Peace-
6. "For unto us a child is given." Have you received the gift of Christ's life?

Pray: Praise God for conquering the darkness both around us and in us through Jesus Christ. Confess Areas where you are placing your hope in something other than Christ. Ask God to reveal himself to you this season as Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and/or Prince of Peace.