



The Week of December 6, 2020
Isaiah 9:2-7
Conversation Guide

Intro Questions

- Which meme on the right best describes your 2020?
- What are you praying 2021 brings?



Finding Joy

- Read Isaiah 9:2

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; a light has dawned on those living in the land of darkness.

- What are the parallels between Isaiah's day and ours?
(Check out the summary video available in the app Monday afternoon if you need a refresher.)
- What is the light they have seen?



Me on a Zoom Meeting ignoring what everyone is sharing about and looking at myself 🤪



- Read Isaiah 9:3-5

You have enlarged the nation and increased its joy. The people have rejoiced before you as they rejoice at harvest time and as they rejoice when dividing spoils. For you have shattered their oppressive yoke and the rod on their shoulders, the staff of their oppressor, just as you did on the day of Midian. For every trampling boot of battle and the bloodied garments of war will be burned as fuel for the fire.

- What is the difference between happiness and joy?
- How can 2020 be devoid of continual happiness but be full of joy?
- How have you experienced joy in 2020?
- Self-reflection: What areas of struggle do you need to find the joy in?

- Read Romans 8:28

We know that all things work together for the good of those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.

- What good has God worked for you from the experiences of 2020?

Our Hope

- Read Isaiah 9:6

For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

- **Wonderful Counselor**

- Read Isaiah 11:2-4

The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him — a Spirit of wisdom and understanding, a Spirit of counsel and strength, a Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord . His delight will be in the fear of the Lord . He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, he will not execute justice by what he hears with his ears, but he will judge the poor righteously and execute justice for the oppressed of the land. He will strike the land with a scepter from his mouth, and he will kill the wicked with a command from his lips.

- Why can we trust Jesus to be our wonderful counselor?

- **Mighty God**

- Deuteronomy 10:17

For the Lord your God is the God of gods and Lord of lords, the great, mighty, and awe-inspiring God, showing no partiality and taking no bribe.

- What are some traits of God that make him mighty?

- **Everlasting Father**

- Revelation 1:8

“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “the one who is, who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.”

- What comfort can we find in knowing we have an Everlasting Father?

- **Prince of Peace**

- Philippians 4:7

And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

- What benefits does this peace give us?

When Joy is Hard to Find

- Read Galatians 5:22-23

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. The law is not against such things.

- What is growing in the garden of your soul right now?

- Read 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in everything; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.

- What are some practical things we can do when it’s hard to rejoice?

- Read Hebrews 12:1-2 (AMP)

Looking away [from all that will distract] to Jesus, Who is the Leader and the Source of our faith [giving the first incentive for our belief] and is also its Finisher [bringing it to maturity and perfection]. He, for the joy [of obtaining the prize] that was set before Him, endured the cross, despising and ignoring the shame, and is now seated at the right hand of the throne of God. Just think of Him Who endured from sinners such grievous opposition and bitter hostility against Himself [reckon up and consider it all in comparison with your trials], so that you may not grow weary or exhausted, losing heart and relaxing and fainting in your minds.

- Why did Christ endure the trials?

- Take some time this week to meditate on these Psalms and the hope and promise that they give us:

- Psalm 61:1-5

God, hear my cry; pay attention to my prayer. I call to you from the ends of the earth when my heart is without strength. Lead me to a rock that is high above me, for you have been a refuge for me, a strong tower in the face of the enemy. I will dwell in your tent forever and take refuge under the shelter of your wings. Selah God, you have heard my vows; you have given a heritage to those who fear your name.

- Psalm 102:19-22

He looked down from his holy heights – the Lord gazed out from heaven to earth – to hear a prisoner’s groaning, to set free those condemned to die, so that they might declare the name of the Lord in Zion and his praise in Jerusalem when peoples and kingdoms are assembled to serve the Lord .

The key to joy is where your focus is.

About Christ: (Hebrews 1:1-4) I believe Jesus Christ is the Son of God who became man, lived a perfect life, died for sinners, rose from the dead and now reigns at the right hand of the Father.

When I consider Christ, I worship: (Psalm 95:1-7) Because of who He is and what he has done, I worship God individually each day and corporately with my church family as often as they assemble.

When I experience worship, I know Peace: (Philippians 4:4-7) I enjoy peace with God as I become more confident in God’s grace and experience His presence in my life. I enjoy peace with others as engage in biblically healthy relationships with them. I seek to deal rightly with those who have wronged or offended me as I pursue peace with them.

When I worship Christ, I am Confident: (1 Peter 1:3-5) Because my hope for the future is placed on the steadfastness of God and the trustworthiness of his promises, I live with confidence.

Action Steps

- Are you struggling in this difficult season? Contact the church office at (850) 893-1709 for recommendations on Christian Counselors.
- In Crisis? National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (800) 273-8255.