



Christmas From the Outside In #1

Study Guide

12/4/16

References: Isaiah 7:14, 9:6-7 & 11:1-10

ICE BREAKER

What was a memorable Christmas event that made an impact on you?

QUESTIONS

Isaiah was a prophet, possibly of the royal family, who prophesied to at least four of the kings of Judah. He was married and had children and according to tradition was martyred for his faith. He prophesied at a time when Israel was divided into the northern kingdom, called Ephraim or Israel and the southern kingdom, called Judah. During his lifetime the kings of Judah were poor leaders and the nation was pressured to take sides in a war between the nations that surrounded Judah.

1. What is hope?

2. When have you experienced “hope” (not wishful thinking) while you were in a challenging situation and you saw a good result take place?

3. A “sign,” in the book of Isaiah, is a dramatic, tangible, intervention into the normal pattern of life that makes us realize that God is at work. Read Isaiah 7:14 to answer the questions below:
 - a. What was the promised sign?
 - b. What is the meaning and significance of this child’s name, Immanuel?

4. How was this prophecy fulfilled? Read Matthew 1:19-23.

5. How does Jesus, our “Immanuel” or “God with us,” give you hope?

6. Isaiah tells us more about this “God with us.” Read Isaiah 9:6-7 and discuss some qualities of what he will be like.



7. How is this confirmed in the New Testament? Read John 3:17.

- 8 How do these qualities of God's goodness give you hope?

9. Out of a remnant of King David's descendents God sent a son who would establish the Father's kingdom.
 - a. Read Isaiah 11:1-5 and share what kind of ruler He will be.
 - b. Read Isaiah 11:6-10 and discuss how He will judge and rule.

10. Read Romans 1:1-4 to determine who this descendent will be.

11. How does this new kingdom give you hope?

12. What are some promises that this descendent gave to those who followed him?
 - a. Read John 10:10b
 - b. Read John 16:33b

13. How have you seen or experienced God's presence and His kingdom in the midst of difficult circumstances?

14. What are some things that we can do to enjoy God's presence, goodness and kingdom while we are on earth? Read Isaiah 26:3.