



Group Curriculum

SERMON

Incarnation: No Greater Gift (Isaiah 9:6-7)

DATE

December 11, 2016

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. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Isaiah 9:6-7

1. Read **Isaiah 9:1-7**. Where are verses 1-2 quoted in the New Testament? What does that passage teach us about the meaning of Isaiah's message?
2. Using a study Bible or other resource, do some research about Isaiah to answer the following context questions:
 - To whom, is God's message through Isaiah directed?
 - When were Isaiah's prophecies largely given?
 - How long before the birth of Christ did Isaiah live?
 - What foreign empire is dominating the Ancient Near East at this time?
3. What does the phrase, "the government shall be upon his shoulder" mean? How does that one phrase encourage you today?
4. Who, or what would you say, outside of Scripture, is your greatest counselor? Why is it so often tempting to listen to them (or it) over Scripture?
5. How would you define the word, "**peace**"?
6. What kinds of things are tempting you into thinking that they can bring peace to your life right now?
7. Which of the four names listed in verse 6 is personally the most significant to you, and why?
8. Look closely at **Isaiah 9:7**. What are three additional characteristics of his government?
9. How does the last phrase in verse 7, "The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this" make a difference for this passage?