

Group/Individual Study

Series: Christmas Hope Wherever you are : Challenged in Galilee

Passages: Isaiah 8:21-22, Isaiah 9:1-2, 6-7

REFLECT on the message heard Sunday, 11/26

1. Read Isaiah 8:21-22. Isaiah 8 was written when Israel was overrun by the brutal Assyrian empire. What were the dark circumstances God's people were facing then? What are some of the dark circumstances that are stealing hope from people you know today?
2. Read Isaiah 9:1-2. We serve a God who dances in graveyards and offers the greatest hope at times of deepest darkness. Unpack His promise here. How is God going to "honor Galilee of the nations." How will the light that is will dawn there going to peel back the world's greatest darkness? How has the light of Christ helped you personally in the turmoil of issues in 2017?
3. Read Isaiah 9:6. One of the famous Christmas carols poses the question, "What child is this?" What are the titles and descriptions this verse gives that describe this child? Take some time to reflect on the significance of each of these aspects of who Jesus is -- and how each aspect brings hope.
 - Wonderful Counselor
 - Mighty God
 - Everlasting Father
 - Prince of Peace
4. Which of these four aspects of who Jesus is and what He does do you need most today? Why?
5. Real life connection: Simone Biles, a five-time Olympic medal winning gymnast, grew up in a fractured family that imploded due to addiction and left her in foster care. She was eventually adopted by loving parents and was thereby given a new lease on life that set the stage for all she has become. How does her story parallel the story all of us have when we come to know the Lord of Christmas?