Series *Sermon-based Growth Group Questions*

November 29, 2020

Isaiah 9:1-7, Matthew 1:18-24

Introductory Discussion:

What insight from Sunday's sermon did you find most helpful, or eye-opening, or troubling (pick any or all of the above)?

Discussion:

1. Israel misunderstood the prophecies about the coming Messiah. Compare what they thought would happen to what actually happened:

Verse	Israel's interpretation	What we now know it means
3. You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder.		
4. For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor.		
6. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.		
7. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom		

2. What do you think led the Israelites to misinterpret the scriptures?

Read Matthew 1:18-24

3. Why was Jesus conceived the way he was?

4. How did the choice of Mary and Joseph positively impact God's plan?

5. At the time of Jesus, Israel believed that the Messiah would come and restore Israel to glory and throw off the oppression of the Romans. What oppression did Jesus come to overthrow (see Matthew 1:21)?

6. How does knowing God's ultimate plan help us understand the passage in Isaiah?

7. Have you ever misinterpreted scripture?

8. How could this lesson help you better interpret scripture?

9. How does knowing the Messiah is coming to establish his Kingdom affect the way we live now?