

Sermon Discussion Guide




“The Great Light”

Isaiah 9:1-7

Rev. Ray Cortese, December 6 & 7, 2014

Step 1: Reflect on the Text

Why do we do this first? We always want to start with the Bible. The goal is to meditate on the Word and read it with an ear sensitive to the Holy Spirit’s promptings. Look for words or phrases that stand out through logic, repetition, layout, etc.

-  Read Isaiah 9:1-7. What stood out to you? What did you find interesting and/or important? What was challenging or caused you to have questions?

Step 2: Reflect on the Sermon

INTRODUCTION

- 1 Ray asked, “How sobered are you by the darkness?” What darkness have you experienced in your world recently?
- 2 Summarize the *Big Idea* of the sermon in *one phrase or sentence* (Note: this is not the same as listing the main points). In other words, if someone woke you up at 3am on Monday morning and asked, “What was the sermon about on Sunday?” what would you say in the midst of your sleepy haze?

THE GREAT LIGHT: ITS SURPRISE

- 3 What was it about Zebulun and Naphtali that made Jesus’ going there unexpected?
- 4 God loves to use the unimpressive. Why shouldn’t Christians care to be important, impressive, or famous? Have you ever felt like a nobody, or said, “I’m not that _____”? How does the gospel address your feelings of inadequacy?

THE GREAT LIGHT: ITS IDENTITY

- 5 If Jesus is God, why is it not an option to just “like” him?
- 6 Why can we never complain that Jesus does not care about our suffering? What is something you have gone through that you could say Christ experienced in his time on earth?

THE GREAT LIGHT: ITS GRACE

- 7 What is the difference between Christianity and other world religions when it comes to how you get right with God?
- 8 What do you have to do in order to receive grace? What gets in the way of our asking for and receiving grace?

THE GREAT LIGHT: ITS ADVANCE

- 9 One day the light will drive the darkness completely away. Complete the following sentence: One day there will be no more _____.
- 10 What is the mission of every Christian related to light and darkness? What is your mission?

Step 3: Final Reflections

- † How has your understanding, appreciation, and love for Jesus and the gospel grown as a result of this study?
- ♥ In what areas of faith and practice are you feeling convicted by the Holy Spirit to act as a result of this study?