


“WAITING IN THE DARK”
SPEAKER: BRAD WILLIAMS
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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help lead your group through a progression of engagement with the Bible passage(s) and the speaker's message. They can help you understand and apply the teaching.

BIBLICAL TEXT(S) + MESSAGE SUMMARY:
ISAIAH 9:1-7, JOHN 1:1-14

People feel more secure and active in the light. Darkness lessens our energy and activity. Moreover, things that “go bump in the night” always seem scarier. It seems like this kind of rhythm is baked into us, which is what we might expect if we take Genesis 1 seriously. The ancient world associated light with life and order while darkness represented chaos and evil. We long for light. We welcome it, still.

So it's not surprising that the Bible's story of God's promise coming in the Person of Jesus weaves its way metaphorically through a tapestry from dark to light.

LEAN IN: *These are icebreakers and warm ups, mostly to get the group talking and start the flow of conversation. Choose one and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.*

1. How important is the actual observance of Advent to you? How do you celebrate it?
2. What do you most anticipate about Christmas itself: the festivities, gifts, something else?
3. Do you identify with the intense longing of the people in Isaiah's day? In what ways?
4. What stood out to you most about this message?

LOOK DOWN: *These are questions about the Bible passage(s) and observations about what's been read. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.*

1. What did you learn about God, His character and work, from the creation story (Gen. 1:1-3)?
2. What words did Isaiah use to convey the desperation of his original audience (Isa. 9:1-7)?
3. What was unique about this child who offered people hope to the whole world (Isa. 9:1-7)?
4. What did you learn about the relationship of the Word to God and humanity (John 1:1-14)?
5. What enormous privilege is given to all who receive and believe in this Word (John 1:1-14)?

LOOK OUT: *These questions help connect the world of the Bible to today. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.*

1. How does the Genesis creation account differ from other “creation stories” prevalent in our culture?
2. How similar or different is our contemporary society from that of Isaiah's day?
3. How would a leader like the child Isaiah describes influence our time and place?
4. What “Word” (or words) cause division in our generation the way John describes Jesus Advent doing in his day?
5. Where do you see grace and truth, often presented as in conflict, converging in our day as they are described by John in the Son, if they do so at all?

CONTINUED:

Look In: These are questions that help you consider how to engage the teaching personally. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.

1. Think of a chaotic time in your life. How did you feel?
How was chaos resolved?
2. When have you personally experienced the light of God, and resulting gladness?
3. How do you feel, contemplating the magnificence of Jesus, the Son who has been given?
4. Share a story about how Jesus has brought light to you and made himself at home, in your life?
5. How does the presence of the Son in your life share light with those around you?

LIVE IT OUT: These action steps help apply this week's message to day to day life. Choose one prompts and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.

1. Sit in God's presence, daily this coming week, reflecting on the perfections of His Promised Son, Jesus.
2. Thank God for the way in which he has satisfied your longings in the one who came, Jesus.