

**Joy in Darkness**  
**Isaiah 9:1-7, Pew Bible p. 573**  
**December 4, 2022**

I. [V. 1-2] The great work of God brings comfort to those in anguish. It brings light to those in darkness.

II. [V. 3-5] The great work of God sees the children of God multiplied and their joys increased.

III. [V. 6] Jesus:

A. is a wonderful counselor.

B. is our mighty God. He is mighty to save.

C. is our everlasting Father.

D. brings us peace.

IV. [V. 7] The kingdom of God will continually expand. God's kingdom will never stop increasing.

## **Group Discussion Questions**

1. Read Isaiah 9:1-7.
2. Share about times in your life or the life of those around you where you have seen God bring light to those in darkness.
3. Have you ever seen a church multiply, as verse 3 says, with new believers? How did that affect the church's joy? Why?
4. What does the coming of baby Jesus have to do with light coming to darkness, according to verse 6?
5. In what ways has Jesus ushered in a kingdom of God with no end, as verse 7 promises? In what ways does it need to continue to expand?
6. How could the kingdom of God continue to expand in the world around you (family, community, work, etc.)?
7. What are some ways you can be on mission for the kingdom of God during this Christmas season?
8. Pray for our church members to be on mission to all people during this Christmas season.

## **Church Bible Reading Plan**

1 Kings 19-21

December Memory Verses: 1 Kings 18:36-37



**Colossians 4:3-6**

*<sup>3</sup> At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison— <sup>4</sup> that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak. <sup>5</sup> Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. <sup>6</sup> Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.*

**Wednesday Night Prayer Meeting**

- PRAYING this week for the follow up efforts of our evangelists at the Verve Apartments and Cactus Flats.

**Pray for Our Church Family Needs:**

- PRAY for missions and missionaries:  
Andy & Lindsay M. in Spain; Luke P. in Maricopa, Arizona; Nathan & Becky F. in Indonesia; Doug & Cheryl D. in Thailand; Jules S. in Thailand; and Sylvia M. and Andrew M. at ASU West, Arizona
- PRAY for all our students: elementary, middle school, high school, and college. No matter whether they are in the classroom, an online setting, or a home school setting, our students are forming minds that need to focus on Christ.
- Family & friends of church members who need salvation or to renew their relationship with Jesus  
Marge D. – Salvation for son, Matthew
- Families who are grieving the recent loss of loved ones:  
Elaine D. (sister); Gary & Betty B. (brother-in-law); Family of Wayne & Twila D.; and Larry & Brenda D. (her sister-in-law)
- Those struggling with ongoing health and other issues:  
Michelle L. (health issues); Leon V. (chemo); Ken & Darlene R. (health issues); John E. (eyelid cancer/kidney issues); Debbie B. (chemo); Ann C.-W. (health issues); Mary R. (transplant recovery); Laura M. (undiagnosed health issue); Stan & Twyla H. (health and other issues); Michelle LaM. (stroke recovery); and Debbie P. (new health concerns)
- Others that you are aware of