

## BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, Dec. 11, 2011

Passage: Isaiah 9:1-7 Part II

Memory Passage: Isaiah 9:6-7 (We will memorize these verses over 4 weeks)

### DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Is. 7:1-6 & 2 Kings 16:1-9.** We continue our look at Is. 6:1-9:7 by examining chapter 7 and the second of the four names given to Jesus in 9:7. Describe the situation found in 7:1. Who is in league with whom? What was the response of Ahaz, King of Judah, and his people (v. 3)? Since Judah is “the house of David” what is wrong with their response (see 2 Sam. 7:8-17 for all the promises that the king & nation of Judah, the “house of David” should have remembered)?
- (b) What does Isaiah say their response should be to these kings (Is. 7:3-6)? What did Ahaz actually do (2 Kings 16:1-9)?
- (c) When you face enemies that “wage war against” you (people, situations, sickness, temptation, events, persecution, etc.), what is your first response? Does it resemble Is. 7:3 or 4? What promises has God made that should cause you to naturally default to the proper response to enemies that wage war against you? How can you begin today to have the proper response without first having the weak, heart-shaking response that we are prone to have as we face these enemies in our own power?
- (d) *Family:* If you have 4 people in your family who could act out a skit, write one to fit the following story and have your family read/act it out. If you do not have 4, tell the story to your family: “There was once a bully who threatened everyone on the playground. Two friends decided to team up against him, but they needed some help, so they went to a third friend and told him to join them against the bully or they would beat him up. The 3<sup>rd</sup> friend, instead of joining the other 2, went to the bully and said, ‘I will be your servant if you don’t bully me any more & you protect me from my friends.’ (He did this in spite of the fact that he knew he was to trust in God and not in men, and that God promised to never leave him or forsake him, and that he could do all things through Christ who strengthens him). The bully agreed, but then began to beat up not only the 1<sup>st</sup> 2 friends, but the 3<sup>rd</sup> friend as well.” Lead your family in a discussion about the folly of the 3<sup>rd</sup> friend not trusting God, and the first 2 friends and the bully thinking they could fight their way into protection & power. **Read Is. 7:1-2 and 2 Kings 16:1-9** (which provides more details of the events) and explain the story comparing Syria & Israel (Ephraim) to the 2 friends, Judah to the 3<sup>rd</sup> friend, and Assyria to the bully.

### DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Is. 7:7-25.** God shows mercy to Ahaz, giving him every chance to trust in Him rather than men, but Ahaz declines to ask Him for a sign. Was his reasoning good or bad (see Deut. 6:16)? Did he actually obey the verse he quotes or was he using it to avoid obedience? Why did you answer as you did?
- (b) God says He will give the nation & its king (“you” in v. 13 is plural) a sign anyway! What sign does He promise? What is the prophetic importance of this Child (see Matt. 1:18-23)? What is this child’s immediate historical importance (Is. 7:15-16)?
- (c) Using your own words, describe the judgment God promises to bring upon Judah (notice the repeating phrase, “In that day” used 4xs in vs. 18-25 to describe the “such days” of v. 17 and bring it into 4-fold clarity).
- (d) What do you learn about the character of God from vs. 7-25? How do these characteristics provide encouragement to you as you endeavor to live for His glory each day, even as you might struggle to fully trust Him?
- (e) *Family:* **Read Is. 7:7-17** and lead your family through the historical situation of the passage. Remind them of what they learned last night about King Ahaz and his trusting in men rather than God. Show them that even though Ahaz disobeyed God by not asking for a sign, God mercifully gave one anyway. Explain that Is. 7:14 referred to a child who would be born and named Immanuel during the time of Ahaz. Before this child was very old at all (old enough to eat solid food but still too young to understand how to choose good from evil, vs. 15-16) judgment would come on Judah because of their lack of trust in the Lord. Then explain that Is. 7:14 is also a reference to Jesus. **Read Matt. 1:18-23.** Explain that Matthew shows us that Is. 7:14 points forward to The Son, Immanuel (which means “God with us”), Jesus Christ, who “came to save His people from their sins.” Discuss the birth of Jesus with your family, giving attention to the prophecy cited by Matthew in v. 23. Ask them, “What prophet spoke these words?” in order to remind them that our passage in Isaiah is the one Matthew cited.

### DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Is. 8:1-22.** In vs. 1-8 God speaks directly to Isaiah about the events in chapter 7 and the judgment on Israel, Syria, and Judah is revisited. Another of Isaiah’s children is named as part of the prophecy (see 7:3 where Shear-jashub means “a remnant shall return”) as Maher-shalal-hash-baz (“The spoil speeds, the prey hastens”) is named to prophesy about the fall of Israel and Samaria (see 8:4). God then uses the metaphor of water to picture the destruction of these nations: The waters of Shiloah refers to Jerusalem’s water supply and symbolizes God’s constant faithfulness to His people; the River (Euphrates) is Assyria and just as a river floods over a land and overcomes it, so will Assyria overcome Israel & Syria and then continue to rise until it reaches Judah, who will be standing on their tiptoes (“reaching even to the neck”) but not completely overrun.

(b) Do verses 9-10 continue the description of judgment or do they change focus? What hope is found in these 2 verses for those trusting in God? How do these verses reflect what you have already studied in chapter 7?

(c) What is Isaiah called to do in v. 13? How must his actions accomplish this (vs. 11-12)? **Read 1 Pet. 4:13-17**. How does Peter use Is. 8:13 and what are you called to do in light of it? Write down at least 3 ways in which you can apply this verse and be obedient to its commands this week.

(d) *Family*: Lead your family through (a) & (c) above, having them draw a comic strip/graphic novel of the flood metaphor that God uses to describe the judgment He will bring. Remember to focus on the grace that God shows to Judah by not completely destroying them (“reaching even to the neck” but not completely drowning them).

#### **DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**

#### **READ THE PASSAGE**

(a) **Read Is. 1:21-31, 10:20-27, 49:22-26, 60:15-22**. The first 3 days ran a little long, so I will condense the questions for the last 2 days: The 4 passages listed are the 4 times, in addition to 9:6, that we find the phrase “Mighty God” in Isaiah. For each passage answer the following questions: (1) What is the main theme? (2) How does/will God exercise His great might? (3) What similarities do you find with the other passages? (4) What do you learn about God’s character? (5) How is Jesus seen (remember that Jesus is God, the exact imprint of [the Father’s] nature, and has been given all of the Father’s authority [Heb. 1:1-4, John 1:1-5; 14-18, Matt. 28:18])?

(b) Now write down at least 2 principles about God from each passage that you will apply to your life in the coming days. These principles can be about the character of God, the actions of God’s people & His response, the actions of God’s enemies and His response, etc. Then write down at least one application for each principle that you will apply this week. You might find this form helpful for specific application: “When I am tempted to \_\_\_\_\_ I will remember that God is/will \_\_\_\_\_ and therefore I will \_\_\_\_\_.”

(c) *Family*: Using your whiteboard, as well as individual pieces of paper for each family member to record their responses, work your way through (a) & (b) above. You might need to limit your study to 1 or 2 of the passages rather than all 4.

#### **DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**

#### **READ THE PASSAGE**

(a) **Read Matt. 11:27-30 & Matt. 28:16-20**. For each passage answer the following questions: (1) What does Jesus’ might have to do with the setting? (2) What are you encouraged to do? (3) What does Jesus’ might have to do with your doing this?

(b) Follow the instructions for Day 4 (b) for these passages from Matthew.

(c) *Family*: Using your whiteboard, as well as individual pieces of paper for each family member to record their responses, work your way through (a) above.

**DATE: December 11, 2011**

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#### *Jesus Our Mighty God*

In Isaiah 9:6 we are given 4 names for Jesus that describe His character & His kingdom.