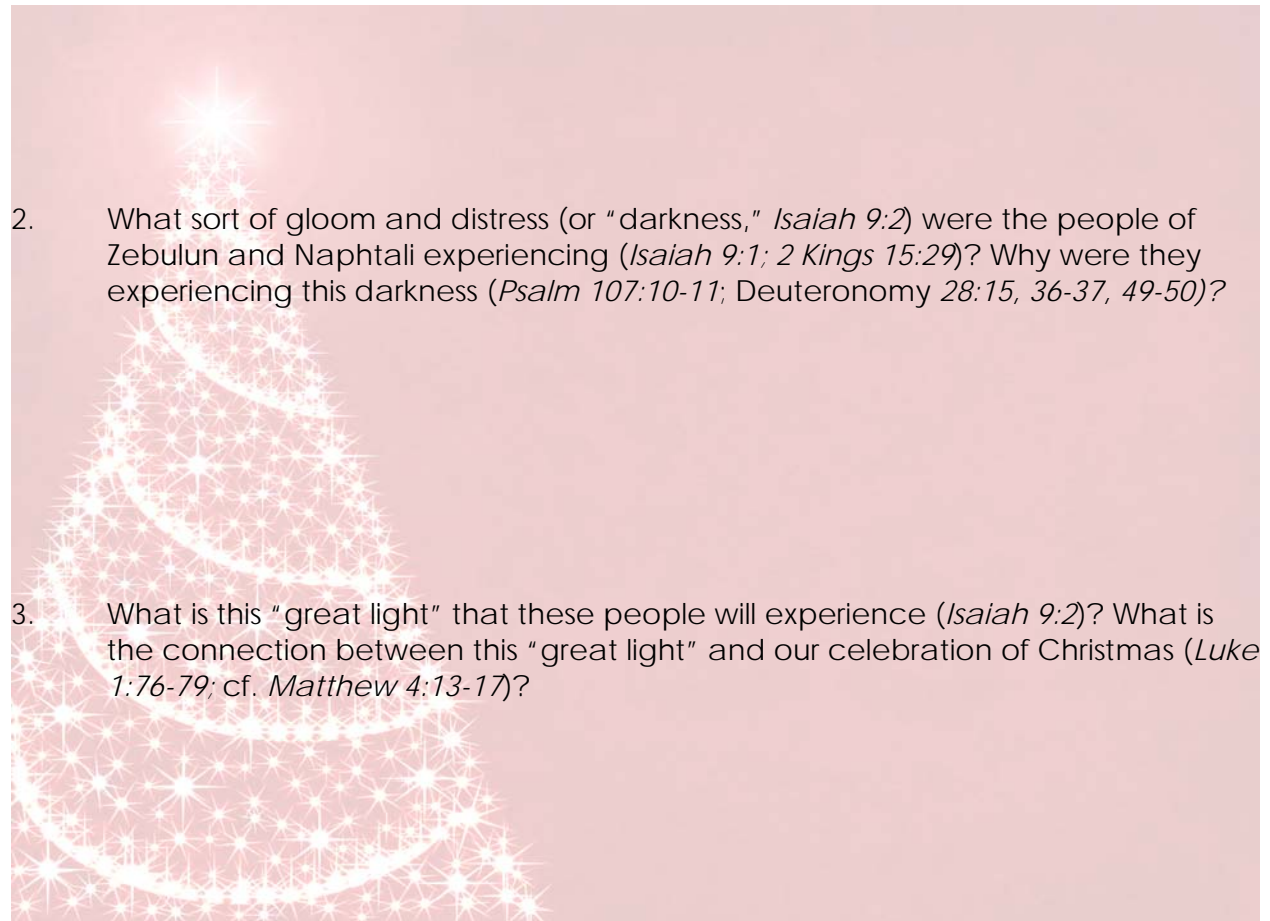




Topeka Bible Church
Lighten Up Your Holiday #1: The Christmas Dawn
Community Group Study Questions
Isaiah 9:1-6; Luke 1:78-79 and selected passages

1. Imagine if we did not have any lights at Christmas. Would you get depressed? Why are lights such an important part of the holiday? When you see lights at Christmas-time, what comes to mind? What do these lights remind you of?



2. What sort of gloom and distress (or "darkness," *Isaiah 9:2*) were the people of Zebulun and Naphtali experiencing (*Isaiah 9:1; 2 Kings 15:29*)? Why were they experiencing this darkness (*Psalms 107:10-11; Deuteronomy 28:15, 36-37, 49-50*)?
3. What is this "great light" that these people will experience (*Isaiah 9:2*)? What is the connection between this "great light" and our celebration of Christmas (*Luke 1:76-79; cf. Matthew 4:13-17*)?
4. Was this "great light" solely for God's people Israel to experience (cf. *Matthew 15:24*)? How do we know that this "great light" (or hope) was also for the Gentiles (*Isaiah 42:6; 49:6; Romans 15:8-9*)?



5. What will characterize this time of great light or hope (*Isaiah 9:3-5; 54:14; Psalm 4:7-8*)? How does the coming of a "child" correspond with this great light (*Luke 2:11*)? How can a child be called "Mighty God, Everlasting Father," etc. (*Colossian 1:15-17; John 14:10*)?

6. What is the significance of this child reigning on David's throne (*Isaiah 9:7; 2 Samuel 7:12-13*)? Is there a connection between King David and the Christmas story (*Matthew 1:1; Luke 1:32-33*)?

7. This year, consider the hope that we have because of the "light" or dawn of Christmas. How should we respond to this message of hope that we have when we trust in Jesus Christ, the True Light (*Ephesians 5:8-10; 1 Thessalonians 5:5-8*)?

Memory Verse:

"The people who walk in darkness will see a great light; Those who live in a dark land, the light will shine on them."

(Isaiah 9:2, NASB)