



## ***Family preparation for congregational worship on December 25, 2016***

**Our Scripture-Isaiah 9:1-7 (ESV):** But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. <sup>2</sup>The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. <sup>3</sup>You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. <sup>4</sup>For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. <sup>5</sup>For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. <sup>6</sup>For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup>Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

### **Discuss:**

1. To what situations did Isaiah compare the joy that will be Israel's? (v.3)
2. What did Isaiah predict God would do for Israel? (vv.4-5)
3. What description does Isaiah provide of the coming ruler provided by God? (vv.6-7)

**Prayer:** Praise the Lord that He honors our commitment to moral excellence. Praise the Lord that He has warned us of the consequences of sin. Ask God to search your heart and cleanse you from any sin the Holy Spirit brings to mind. Pray for our state and local leaders. Pray for the Gideon's International as they distribute the Word of God. Pray for your daily activities. Ask the Lord who He would have you invite to church this coming Sunday.

**Memorize (December):** "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him." **John 3:16-17 (ESV)**

### **Music:**

As you meditate and prepare your heart for worship this Sunday, sing this song to the Lord;

*We've a story to tell to the nations that will turn their hearts to the right,  
A story of truth and mercy, a story of peace and light, a story of peace and light.*

*For the darkness shall turn to dawning, and the dawning to noonday bright, and Christ great kingdom  
Shall come on earth-the kingdom of love and light.*

"We've a Story to Tell to the Nations", The Celebration Hymnal, #446, Word Music/Integrity Music © 1997

## Isaiah 9:1-7

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I V L G L A N D F F G H N  
A I T Y F O A J O R D A N  
N A L I G H T H R M G R G  
G L O O M W I K M A R V O  
U P E A C E O N E D E E V  
I B U Y E I N C R E A S E  
S D B R O U G H T D T T R  
H W G A L I L E E A I R N  
O E L B E Y O N D R M V M  
U L A T T E R O L K E Y E  
L T D H K P I C P N C W N  
D M F E F C O N T E M P T  
E V E R Y R U N H S F K C  
R D E E P A S S V S A Y L

ANGUISH	BEYOND	BROUGHT
CONTEMPT	DARKNESS	DEEP
DWELT	EVERY	FORMER
GALILEE	GLAD	GLOOM
GLORIOUS	GOVERNMENT	GREAT
HARVEST	INCREASE	JORDAN
LAND	LATTER	LIGHT
MADE	NATION	PEACE
SHOULDER	THERE	TIME