

***Emmanuel: God With Us***  
**A Child Is Born – Isaiah 9**

When the birth of Jesus was predicted, it came to a culture that was scraping the bottom. When the birth of Jesus occurred, it was in a culture that wasn't much better. Isaiah prophesied that Jesus was born, and he lived in the day of the Assyrians who were absolutely brutal. Jesus was born into a culture that was oppressed by the Romans. This is the group that developed crucifixion so that they could rule with fear.

The contrast of good and evil is described in Isaiah as a contrast between light and darkness, Is 5:20. It is characteristic of spiritual darkness to flip good and bad, holy and evil. The path to becoming immersed in spiritual darkness can be slow but sure. What was once thought to be intolerable is viewed as acceptable. What was once thought to be acceptable is viewed as desirable. What was once thought to be desirable is viewed as normal.

Knowing that the dark side of people would try to extinguish the light of His Son Jesus, God chose to send His Son into the world just the same. Jesus came to demolish spiritual oppression. People so often seem to think that they need to get fixed up in order to meet God. This can actually be a barrier to the gospel – people think they have to be light in order to get light. Isaiah goes in the opposite direction: The light is coming to those who are messed up, not dressed up.

Here are the great descriptions Isaiah gives to us of the child to be born as Messiah and Savior.

*Wonderful Counselor* – He is qualified to rule

*Mighty God* – He is God in the flesh, and He is powerful.

*Everlasting Father* – Jesus will eternally act as a Father to you.

*Prince of Peace* – He is a ruler, and He rules with peace.

**Home Group Discussion Questions:**

1. Do you prefer light or darkness? Why?
2. Do you feel as if you live in the light?
3. Hard question to discuss...you might want to just reflect on this personally:  
Do you sometimes live in darkness?
4. How can you begin to allow Jesus to have more of an impact on your life?
5. How can the birth of the Savior so long ago make a difference in your life today?