



A Better King
Advent 2020

WEEK 1: THE GOD OF ALL HOPE

Read the text: Isaiah 9:2-7

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.
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.
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.
For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult
and every garment rolled in blood
will be burned as fuel for the fire.
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.
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.

Jesus Christ is the true and better leader who will fulfill God's promise and satisfy our every longing. He showed himself faithful to fulfill God's promises in His first advent. We long for him to return and reign first in our own hearts and then in our world. Hope points us forward to a longing fulfilled. God's Word promised that He would satisfy our longings and bring about His perfect rule over our lives and our world. That rule leads to healing, power, love and peace. And the outcome will be great joy as we fully experience our King, King Jesus, bring light to our darkness, healing to our wounds, power to our weakness, justice to oppression, and peace to our world.

Discussion Questions:

These questions are written for DNA groups, but you can use in any setting, including missional communities. Because they were written for the intimacy of DNA friendships, you may need to adjust for larger groups.

1. Hope starts with feeling the darkness. As Pastor Jeff shared, "You can't see the stars of hope in the future without looking honestly at the past and present darkness." Do you think you've been honest with yourself and others about the past and/or present darkness you've experienced? If not, why do you think you avoided it? What comes to mind when you think about darkness you've experienced?
2. What do you think you are presently hoping for? What would best answer this statement for you: "If this would happen, everything would be okay"? Share with each other where, apart from Jesus, you often put your hope and try to be as specific as you can.

3. Regarding what you just shared, what longing lays behind that hope? What are you longing for? What desire lays behind that longing? What need lays behind that desire? And what feeling are you experiencing that lays behind that need?

4. How might Jesus, the better King, be the better hope for you today? How does Jesus meet your need and satisfy your desire and longing so that your hope can actually be fulfilled? Think tangibly about what you need at the deepest level? Maybe its security, or affirmation, or love? How is Jesus the better One to hope in to meet your longing? How might Jesus specifically meet your desire and need?