**HOME GROUP GUIDE**

**December 8, 2019**

**Isaiah 9:6-7**

**Sermon Title: Advent-Peace**

**About this guide:**

This guide is provided to assist your home group in discussion and application of the most recent sermon. This guide provides direction for application-based discussion within a small group as well as discussion material. **Please know that the guide is not designed with the intent that every question be answered systematically**. Feel free to pick and choose the questions that fit your group and structure your time together using the guide to maximize your group’s benefit.

Notice organization of the guide: looking back, looking up and looking forward. “Looking back” is the time for the group to consider how the last week or two has gone, to share about struggles and victories. Consider choosing one or two items from this section to answer.

“Looking Up and Looking Forward” is a time to discuss the sermon and how the group might further apply the truth of God’s word, making specific plans individually and as a group to walk by faith in the week to come. This is also a time to encourage each other, minister to each other and pray for each other. Try to choose a couple elements from each section.

The guide also contains a family discipleship section with a few ideas on how to intentionally engage in following the Lord as a family.

**Looking back:**

* Share how you have been doing since you last met:
	+ What biblical truths have been shaping your life and heart over the last week or so?
	+ What has dominated your prayer life this week?
	+ What was a “win” in your life this last week (something that happened that resulted in thankfulness, a moment of spiritual growth or victory, an answered prayer, etc.)?
	+ What was the biggest challenge in your life this last week? Is there anything that you need to share with your home group in the form of confession?
* With whom were you able to begin to build a gospel bridge of conversation since the last time we met? With whom were you able to share the gospel message?
* How can the group help you in your life this next week?

**Looking Up and Looking Forward (Specific, Realistic, Measurable, Personal): Read Isaiah 9:6-7**

1. The Israelites were in the midst of chaos when the prophecy about Jesus in Isaiah 9 was written. Their view of peace would have been from a temporal perspective, but Isaiah 9 is about more than a temporal peace. It is about the entrance of eternal peace.
	* Share a story about a time your life was chaotic but you experienced great peace in the midst of the chaos because of the Lord. What stands out to you about that experience? How did it shape your relationship with the Lord and your perspective on the future?
	* Read John 14:27. Discuss what it means to have Jesus’ peace. How does this affect your life? How should it affect your life?
	* Read John 16:33. What does it mean to have peace even though suffering will be present in our lives? How do we lean into the peace of Jesus in the midst of suffering? What does this really look like?

1. Each person take one of the following verses that lists a name of Jesus and read it. John 8:12; Revelation 17:14; 1 Timothy 2:5; Ephesians 2:14; John 1:1; Isaiah 7:14; John 10:11; Revelation 19:11; Ps. 118:22; Hebrews 12:2; 1 John 2:1; Isaiah 9:6-7
	* Which of these names of Jesus stands out to you right now? Why?
	* Which of these names of Jesus is the hardest for you to believe right now? Why?
	* What would change in your life if you really believed these names of Jesus are true?

1. When your life looks different because of the peace of Christ, others take

notice-especially in times of suffering.

* + Who is in your life who needs the peace of Christ? How can you (your home group) serve them this Christmas season?
	+ Come up with some names of people who are currently walking through difficult circumstances but they are trusting the Lord and representing the peace of Christ in the midst of the difficulty. Spend time praying for them as a Home Group. Thank the Lord for them and their example and ask the Lord to encourage, strengthen and continue to give them the ability to trust Him so others might come to know Him through their suffering.
1. If your group has kids present, have the kids act out the Christmas story. Have someone narrate and assign each kid a role. Make it fun and create a memory for your entire group. Close by praying together thanking the Lord for sending Jesus.

**Don’t forget:**

1. Pray for one another. Share one specific prayer request you need your group to pray each day until you meet again.
2. Pray for each of our campuses/venues: the Georgetown campus- Worship Center Sundays at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. and Liberty Hill Campus at 11:00 a.m.
3. Pray for FBG families to be intentional with the Advent season. Ask the Lord to use this special season to help us be intentional with our families and others around us who don’t know Jesus.
4. Pray for the families we got to meet during Merry Christmas with Love. Pray for ongoing relationships to be built because of Merry Christmas with Love.

**Family Discipleship:**

Pick up an Advent guide and use the guide to provide opportunities for you and your family to focus on Jesus this Advent season.