### **Community Group Discussion Guide**

Sunday, April 11, 2021 Scripture: Isaiah 8:11-9:7

# THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO

#### THIS WEEK'S FOCUS

Jesus Christ is the great and trustworthy Royal Light graciously sent by God to overcome the doom and gloom of sin.

#### QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION (Use along with Reading: Ante Faciem Dei)

- Who is the king of Judah during this time, and what military conflict is taking place during chapters 6-9? (2 Chronicles; 2 Kings) How did God chastise Ahaz for distrusting Him?
- What warnings did God give Ahaz and the people of Israel (verses 11-12)? Discuss how fear and faith can't coexist. What is the antidote to fear (Verses 13-14)? What is the "fear of the Lord" (Hebrews 12:28-29; Matthew 10:28)?
- Explain how God is either a snare or sanctuary (verse 14-15; Matthew 21:44; 1 Peter 2:7-8).
- Why does God tell Isaiah to "bind up the testimony" (verse 16)?
- Share some ways you have witnessed or experienced God's mighty work, which has served to strengthen your faith.
- How do we *actively* wait and hope on the Lord (verse 17)?
- What were the purposes of the signs and portents God gave Isaiah and Israel (verse 18)?
- Rather than trusting God, where did Israel turn for stability and peace (verse 19; 2 Timothy 4), and why did they do this (verse 20)? Why are these practices forbidden (Exodus 20:5; Deuteronomy 4:24; verse 21-22)? Are you carrying anguish rather than relinquishing them to a loving, trustworthy, Almighty God (John 3:18-21)?
- How does God reveal himself to us? Do you turn to the word of God for guidance and wisdom?
- By his grace, what is the great light does God shine on his people (9:1-2)?
- Where does the joy described in 9:1-5 come from? Discuss each of the titles of Jesus and how they describe him personally and the character of his government.

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