

# A Light

## IN THE SHADOWS

Isaiah 9:2 | Dr. Stephen G. Tan

### Discussion Questions

1. What Christmas traditions do you appreciate the most? Why?
2. The story of Christmas is a story that never gets old and a story worth retelling over and over again even if it's not December. Read Isaiah 9:2. This verse identifies two problems that human beings experience and why Christmas offers a solution to these two problems.

**Problem #1: We walk in hopelessness(v. 2a).** How are the people living in Judah walking in hopelessness? Why were they hopeless? What is the only solution for darkness? What makes the world in which you live today dark and hopeless? How can you minister to those who are hurting during this holiday season (Psalms 34:18)?

**Solution #1: The great hope of Jesus Christ.** How is the light described in verse 2? What was the hope of the people in the Old Testament before the Son of God came into the world in the person of Jesus Christ (Matthew 4:15-16)? How is Jesus a hope to the people in Isaiah's time, in the time of Matthew, and in our time today? Share the story of how you put your faith and hope in Jesus Christ as your Savior. How is He the Lord of your life now?

**Problem #2: Everyone is on a death march(v. 2b).** Aside from living in darkness of hopelessness, how else were the people living in Isaiah's time? Why? Why is everyone in this world destined for hell in Romans 3:23? Why are even good people deserving of hell? Isn't that unfair? How do you feel that many of your friends and loved ones are on a death march?

**Solution #2: A Savior has come.** How was the problem of marching to hell solved by the great Light? What is the essence of the Christmas story? How do you feel about the fact that a lot of people in this world do not want to listen to the very solution to man's problem, which is that a Savior has come? What can you do about it?

### Reflect & Respond

Jesus Christ's birth is the answer to everything we have hoped for, and his death has conquered everything we have ever feared. Is there anything in your life that you need to commit to Christ to free you of struggle and hopelessness? Are you depending on man-made lights and other beautiful Christmas decorations instead of the light of Christ that brings true Hope and Salvation? How are you celebrating the light of Christ in your life not only this Christmas but in your daily life?

### Prayer

Heavenly Father, may this Christmas remind me of Your greatest gift, Your only Son, Jesus Christ, who is the Light of the world and who died in my place to save me from marching to hell. Thank You for who He is whose name is Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. In His mighty name I pray. Amen.