

Trinity Anglican Church, Sarnia
Advent Bible Study – 2021. **Hope, Peace, Joy, & Love**

With Canon Vicars Hodge

Week #2. **Isaiah 9:1-7; Ephesians 2:11-17**

Question #1 5 Minutes (max)

Is there chaos in the world around you that needs some of God's shalom?

- **Where do you long to see God's Shalom/Peace?**

Question #2 In Isa 9:6 the Messiah is given titles: (Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.)

- **Which title fits Jesus best, as you have experienced Him?**

Question 3 Eph. 2:11-13 Jews thought Gentiles were "unclean" and Gentiles resented Jewish claims. Paul taught that *all* are sinners and therefore "unclean" needing the forgiveness Jesus made possible at the cross.

- **Have you ever felt separate, unclean, excluded, helpless?**

Question 4 Paul's understanding of the Church really dropped a bomb on the social structure of his day. He taught that in Christ, God has now made "*the two, one and has destroyed the barrier*" between Jew and Gentile (v14).

- **How is this reconciling work of Christ like creating a new citizenship? A new family? A new Temple?**

Question 5 "Christ himself is our Peace" (v.14) and has broken down the wall of hostility between Jew and Gentile. How does this apply to other human divisions -- between nations, races, ethnicities.

- **What barriers does Jesus want shalom in our town? Our church? Our world? How do human barriers stifle Christ's love/shalom?**

Question 6 When someone invites Jesus into their life, he forgives their sin, heals their hearts, and reconciles them to God. We then begin to experience his shalom in our other relationships. You could say that Jesus has "*shalomed us,*" making us whole and as God intended.

- **How do you respond to that knowledge? Have you been brought near to him? (v.13). Is there more for Him to do in you?**

Group Norms to enhance our experience

- **Try to make regular attendance a priority..**
- **Try to stay "on topic."** Stick to the passage being studied. Seek to find the answers in the text.
- **Everyone participates and no one dominates.** Sometimes we are so eager to share what we have learned that we don't leave room for others. By all means participate – but leave space for others.
- **Don't think you need to answer to every question out loud.** Maybe a quieter member person would participate if you held back a bit.
- **Be sensitive to the other members of the Group.** We respect each other and can all learn from each other. There are no 'dumb' questions. Groups work best when everyone participates.
- **Support for one another is part of our life** as followers of Jesus.
- **Confidentiality matters:** When someone shares something of private nature, that stays in the group. We tell our own stories, if we want – not other people's.

Suggestions for getting the most out of a LIFE Group

Everyone

- Try to read the passage we will study in advance of our meeting.
- Bring an attitude of expectancy – God wants to open his Word for you and me.... Come expecting to receive some good word.
- Stay in touch with each other during the week, where appropriate.

People who want more....

- Pre-read the questions and think about them a bit.
- Read more of Jeremiah if you can. Recommended translations: (ESV, NRSV, NASB, NIV, TPT)
- Each week, after the study, re-read the passage & questions– to reinforce what you have learned.

The Keeners – looking for an A+

- Read Jeremiah through in a second, different translation like "The Message" (MSG), New Living Translation (NLT),
- Make a list of questions you would like answered and send them to trinity@trinitysarnia.org