

THE WAY IN A MANGER



Introduction

This week we begin Advent! Advent is the time of year leading up to Christmas where we celebrate Jesus' coming. Not only do we celebrate Jesus' first coming, we also renew our faith and hope in Jesus' second coming. This year our key text is Isaiah 9:6. We are looking at how this child, the Messiah (Savior, Deliverer) came to us not in pomp and circumstance but by way of the manger. Why would the Almighty God, the King of the Universe, take on flesh and enter human experience by way of the manger? It is through the manger that Jesus--our Wonderful Counselor, our Mighty God, our Everlasting Father, and our Prince of Peace--is most gloriously known, worshipped, and obeyed.

Digging Deeper

Read Luke 2:7, 11-12, and 16. What will be the sign pointing to the presence and arrival of the Savior?

Read Isaiah 9:1-7.

What are some observations from verses 1-5? Use study notes if you have them. How do these verses help you better understand 6-7?

Who is the primary actor bringing restoration in this passage?

Read Luke 1:67-75.

List all that God does and accomplishes through the sending of the Savior.

What is the response of the people (1:74-75). What might that look like in your own life?

What are some ways in which you might meditate on the names for Jesus in Isaiah 9:6 or be renewed this advent season?

Live It Out

Pray: , Jesus I praise you because you are mighty and able to_____.

Confess: In what situation or struggle in your life right now do you need to experience God's able, mighty, perfect power?

Act: As you consider the humility, sovereignty, possibility, and the suffering of the Manger, how might you better walk in the way of Jesus in the week(s) ahead?