



BACKSTAGE FOR CHRISTMAS

"Behind the Scenes at Christmas" – So Much More (Isaiah 9:1-7)
December 21, 2014 – TABLE GROUP GUIDE

Begin by reading the devotion inside the bulletin. This is also posted online on facebook.com/fcctown and at fcctown.com/media.php under the sermon video. If you were unable to attend worship on Sunday, please go to fcctown.com and watch Sunday's sermon prior to meeting with your weekly table group.

Talk About

When have you been desperately in need of, or grateful for, a flashlight? When have you gotten up early to greet the sunrise?

What "dawn of a new day" are you most anticipating in 2015?

700 years before the first Christmas, the hope was there. Through Isaiah the prophet, knowledge of all that would be won was laid before the people of Israel. What Israel didn't understand was how far reaching victory would be and how gruesome it would be for the child. The weight of the world would be felt in one life and the King of Kings would be the one to bring freedom, everlasting freedom, for all.

Digging Deeper

Read Isaiah 9:1-7

Considering chapter 8:19-22, what do you think Isaiah meant by the "darkness" in which the people walk (v.2)?

How does Isaiah describe the effects of the dawning light (v. 3-5: see Judges 7:19-25 for Midian's defeat)?

What will be the light? How is he defined in verses 6-7?

What expectations would this arouse in you, if you had first heard Isaiah's announcement?

What type of son or ruler would you expect to arise? How would his future rule and counsel compare with past alliances and plans (read 8:7-10)?

How does the New Testament interpret what this prophecy means (Matthew 4:12-17; Luke 1:32; John 8:12)?

Of the titles given in verse 6, which fit Jesus, as you know him?

What makes the place that you live, work or play 'dark'?

How can Jesus make that dark place lightened up?

If Jesus is so great, how is it that many Christians and even churches are compromising and dwindling in size? What can we do to ensure this doesn't happen in our life or church?

Moving Forward

Considering this week's teaching and group discussion, what can your group do or pray for you?

If you would like to talk with a minister, please call (270) 765-4994 to set up an appointment or contact:

Stuart Jones stuart@fcctown.com Senior Minister
Chris Kiger chris@fcctown.com Student Minister
Jason Fox jason@fcctown.com Small Group Minister

Doug Mitchell doug@fcctown.com Connections Minister
Tim Hurd tim@fcctown.com Children's Minister
Shannon Smith Shannon@fcctown.com Assistant Children's Director



What are the purposes of a table group? To dig deeper into the Biblical principle(s) presented each Sunday morning during the FCC worship hour, to connect and share with other group members and to support one another as we strive to live out each week's teaching.

What does a table group do? A group discussion guide will be provided in the bulletin each Sunday and will be available on the FCC Facebook page by noon on Monday. The discussion guide will focus the group and challenge each participant to action.

Who establishes and makes up a table group?

1. Husband & Wife
2. Family
3. 2-5 Guys
4. 2-5 Ladies
5. 2-5 Couples

Where do they meet?

1. Kitchen table
2. Coffee table
3. Cafe table
4. Restaurant table
5. Picnic table
6. Work table
7. Round table

How often do they meet? Weekly (day and time is decided by the group)

How long should the weekly meeting last? Varies (decided by the group)

Who leads a table group? Leadership can be shared or a leader can be chosen by the group.

How long does the group stay together? The group should commit to stay together 6-8 weeks. Groups can renew their commitment to meet together for another season (6-8 weeks).

Is a table group an official FCC group? Table groups are not organized by FCC but are provided as opportunities for individuals to connect and become better followers of Jesus. FCC would like to know how this opportunity is being utilized. When your group establishes a place, time, and participants, please report to Doug Mitchell at (270) 765-4994 or doug@fccetown.com.

Can an individual be a part of more than one table group? Yes, but our goal is that every individual attending a worship service be a part of at least one table group.

What happens if the group is too big to meet around a table? No table group should have more than 10 individuals. If a group grows to have more than 10 participants, there are two options:

- 1) Multiply into separate tables (groups of less than 10). Or
- 2) Seek to establish a life group (10-20 participants). To establish a life group, contact Doug Mitchell at (270) 765-4994 or doug@fccetown.com.