

Study Hints for Thinking Further

International Bible Lessons

Isaiah 9:2-7

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Some Bible study groups or classes can further discussion by asking some or all of the **Five Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further** below. Others may want to send the bulletin size *International Bible Lesson* home with their students for further study in the coming week to encourage continuing Bible study. The *Study Hints for Thinking Further* below are not actually intended to be answers to the discussion questions, but hints a teacher may use to help students think through and discuss the questions in class.

Five Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further

1. In what ways can you compare light and truth? How is Jesus “a great light”?

I need light to travel safely, and I need truth to travel safely in this world and in the next. I need light to see if I have reached my destination or not, and I need truth to know whether or not I am in the right place intellectually and spiritually. When it is dark, I need light to see to do things; for example, to read a book with my eyes. When the world or the worldly system is intellectually, morally, or spiritually dark, I need truth to make the right decisions or to cope with a bad situation with the hope that God will make things right someday. If I want to demonstrate to others the way to do something, so they can learn something new or how to do something better, I need light (and so do they). When I want others to learn how to live better (practically, intellectually, morally, or spiritually), I need to teach them the truth and they need to understand that they need the truth to live better.

Jesus is “a great light” or “a great truth,” because He said He was the truth (John 14:6). Jesus not only told the truth about God, people, the world, and how to live; but Jesus perfectly showed God to people; showed people how to live with others; and showed people how to live in this world. He pushed the darkness and deception of falsehood, lies, and sin out of people’s lives when they accepted Him as the way, the truth, and the life, as their Lord and Savior, as the One who always taught the truth. He sent the Holy Spirit into the lives of all who trust in Him as Lord and Savior to teach people the truth, to lead people into the truth, and to help them interpret, understand, and apply the truth. Jesus is the light that will never dim or burnout, and He gives more light whenever more light is needed.

2. Read Isaiah 9:6 again. What truth do you personally find the most amazing truth in this verse? Why?

The fact that a human child would be born and would be called “Mighty God;” which Jesus could be called because of God being His Father through the Holy Spirit’s conceiving Him and Mary being His human mother. Though God inspired Isaiah to write this prophecy, it is amazing that the religious leaders allowed this verse to remain

in the Bible, which once again shows how God has protected the scriptures from being abused by changes or deletions. It is amazing that the verse is still in our Bibles today, because the religious leaders accused Jesus of blasphemy when He made himself equal with God, and this verse makes a human child equal with God. “For this reason the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, because he was not only breaking the sabbath, but was also calling God his own Father, thereby making himself equal to God” (John 5:18). Jesus made clear that He fulfilled this prophecy of Isaiah.

3. List some of the ways Jesus showed that He is “Mighty God.”

Jesus stilled storms, did all types of miracles, healed all types of diseases, healed people from a distance, raised dead people to life again (even after they had been dead a few days), treated people with love, justice and mercy appropriately, died according to His perfect timing and raised himself from the dead according to His perfect timing and in fulfillment of Biblical prophecy.

4. How did Jesus show some of the traits of a “Wonderful Counselor”?

Jesus was a wonderful teacher (consider His Sermon on the Mount) and Jesus always answered questions appropriately, whether from honest inquirers, disciples, or opponents. As a leader, Jesus wonderfully managed His disciples and all who followed Him, even when some betrayed Him or denied Him or tried Him in mock trials or crucified Him. A counselor can be one who gives good advice and is a good leader, and Jesus was wonderful giving advice and leading well.

5. During His ministry on earth, what were some of the ways Jesus showed and taught that He is “Everlasting Father”?

Jesus said that when people had seen Him they had seen the Father (John 14:9). Jesus treated people as most people would like to be treated by a loving father, and that included teaching, demonstrating by example, making appropriate reprimands, and exercising corrective discipline. Jesus loved people the way God the Father loves people, especially those who have consciously chosen to be the children of God through faith in Jesus, the Son of God. “He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will” (Ephesians 1:5). By ascending into heaven and sitting at the right hand of God, Jesus is an “Everlasting Father” to us, even as is our Father in heaven, to Whom Jesus taught is to pray.