

Missional Community Guide  
**“The PeaceMaker”**

*New Day Church*

*William Whaley*

*December 4, 2016*

*Isaiah 9:6*

**Use this guide as a tool to help you prepare to experience spiritual transformation in a practical way. It is a flexible guide that will help you discover, own, and apply the truths of God’s Word.**

**Message Summary**

Isaiah wrote in a day when God’s people were in the midst of great turmoil. The people of God were living in a divided kingdom just before the Assyrian Exile. Pekah, the son of Remaliah, was king of Israel and Ahaz, the son of Jotham, was king of Judah. Ahaz was most known for his apostasy. As a matter of fact, 2 Kings 16:2-4 says that Ahaz, “did not do what was right in the eyes of the LORD his God, as his father David had done, but he walked in the way of the kings of Israel. He even burned his son as an offering, according to the despicable practices of the nations whom the LORD drove out before the people of Israel. And he sacrificed and made offerings on the high places and on the hills and under every green tree.” Under the leadership of Ahaz, Judah was in trouble. They were in desperate need of peace.

In Isaiah 7-8 we see that Isaiah had been sent to king Ahaz. War, darkness, and distress surrounded Judah. It was a dark time in the history of God’s people. Yet, God in His grace sent Isaiah the prophet to Ahaz to warn him of what was coming. Isaiah 7-8 is filled with the gory details of judgment yet mingled with hope and assurance of a renewed people. He tells Ahaz in Isaiah 7:14 that he will give him a sign of the things to come. A virgin will bear a son and shall call his name Immanuel which means “God with us.” Then in Isaiah 9 he begins to explain that God, by His grace, will shine His light in the darkness of the Gentiles. Those who walked in darkness will see the light. It was a sign of renewed hope and encouragement for the people of God. It was a sign of peace to come.

But how would this hope and peace come? God was going to lift the burden of oppression from their shoulders by bringing peace between people (Isaiah 9:4). He would also bring peace between nations (Isaiah 9:5). But how would this peace come? Through war? Compromise? No. Isaiah 9:6 says that God was going to bring peace through a PeaceMaker.

We know that this PeaceMaker has come. He was born as a lowly child, given to us to rule the nations. As Isaiah said, His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor. Mighty God. Everlasting Father. He is the Prince of Peace. We know that His name is also called Jesus!

Christmas is a time every year when we focus our attention on this PeaceMaker named Jesus. As it was said in our daily Advent reading from *Good News of Great Joy*, “Christmas is an indictment before it becomes a delight. It will not have its intended effect until we feel desperately the need for a Savior.” Our need is for peace. Peace with God. Peace with one another. Peace in our homes. Peace at our workplace. Peaceful assurance of eternal life. We can be assured that peace has come through Jesus. As Paul said in Romans 5:1, “Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

As you prepare to meet with your Missional Community this week, examine the questions to consider at the end of the sermon outline. Are you at peace with God? Others? Are you a peacemaker like Jesus? Be prepared to answer these questions and dig deeper into what Isaiah 9:6 says about God, what He has done, how you are to live in light of that, and what changes you will make in preparation for Christmas. As you examine these things, you will begin to focus your attention on the delight that is found in the Peacemaker!

**Message Outline**

The Peacemaker has come to us...

1. In Humility.
2. With Authority.
3. In Truth.
4. In Power.
5. In Love.
6. For Peace.

Questions to consider:

1. Are you at peace with God?
2. Are you at peace with others?
3. Are you a peacemaker like Jesus?

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**Group Discussion**

Use the following questions to help make application of God’s Word to your Head (What God wants me to know), to your Heart (What God wants me to desire/value), and to your Hands (What God wants me to do).

In regard to Isaiah 9:6:

1. What does this passage teach about God? (God’s Identity; Theology)
2. What does this passage teach about what God has done? (God’s Action; Christology)
3. What does this passage teach about man/me? (Old & New Creation Identity; Ecclesiology)
4. What does this passage teach about what I should do? (Reveals what I really believe about Questions 1-3; Missional Ecclesiology)
5. What does this passage teach about how I do it uniquely in my context? (personal action steps of obedience)

**Weekly Prayer Focus**

• **Church:**

- Pray that all who have believed the Gospel will obey Jesus in believer’s baptism.
- Pray for new relationships that will lead to Gospel conversations.
- Pray for the elders as they lead us to accomplish the mission.
- Pray for the Missional Communities to impact their communities with the Gospel.
- Pray for Missional Communities to multiply into new neighborhoods.
- Pray for new DNA groups to start.

• **Local:**

- Pray that God would burden us with the lostness in our cities, neighborhoods, and at work.
- Pray that God will identify 5 people you can begin to invest in and engage with the Gospel.

• **Global:**

- Pray for J & A and their children as they prepare for the mission field.
- Pray that God would give you a heart for the nations.
- Pray for the team working in SEA, the new believers, for those who have heard the Gospel, and the church planting movement among the unreached.
- Pray for Good Shepherd Ministries and Bill & Sandy Younger.
- Pray for Servants Hearts Ministries and Bob & Georgette Kornegay.
- Pray for Pastor Abraham and his church in Guatemala.
- Pray for the work of Paul & Sarah Young and Dakota Baptist Church in North Dakota.