

HOPE IN DARK TIMES

Matthew 1:18-25, Luke 2:1-7, Matthew 2:13-23, Isaiah 9:1-7

Pastor Jim Oakley

WHEN THINGS LOOK DARK AND LIFE DOESN'T MAKE SENSE, WE CAN HOPE IN GOD'S PLAN.

1. WHEN THINGS LOOK DARK (Isaiah 9:1-2, Luke 2:1, Matt 2:16,17)
2. AND LIFE DOESN'T MAKE SENSE (Matthew 1:18-21 Matthew 2:13,20,22)
3. WE CAN HOPE IN GOD'S PLAN (Isaiah 9:6-7; Matt 1:20,24,25; Luke 21-7; Matt 2:14,21,23)

READ AHEAD FOR NEXT WEEK: John 3:16, 1 John 4:7-21

MEMORY VERSE: Isaiah 9:2

DISCUSSION GUIDE

1. What are some things that discourage, disappoint, or disillusion you about the state of the world? Why?
2. Is all discouragement, disappointment, or disillusionment bad? If not, why not? If so, why?
3. How can these things drive us towards hope in God?
4. How does God reveal his plan to Joseph in Matthew 1:18-25, 2:13-23; Luke 2:1-7?
5. Summarize Joseph's response to each of these messages from God.
6. If you were in Joseph's shoes in Matthew 1:18-25, 2:13-23; Luke 2:1-7 what would you do differently?
7. If you were in Joseph's shoes, what would you think about God in all of these situations?
8. How does Joseph's actions display his faith in God?
9. READ Isaiah 9:1-7. What does this say about the Messiah's (Joseph's son, Jesus) role in history?
10. If you were Joseph, how would knowing this prophecy give you hope?
11. How would this prophecy affect the way you would raise Jesus if you were Joseph?
12. How does this prophecy encourage you as you look at the state of the world?
13. How does this study challenge or encourage you?