



# PREPARE

HEBREWS 9:28

Title: **PREPARE FOR HIS RETURN**

Date: DEC. 3, 2023

## Leader's Notes:

1. Start and end the life group on time.
2. Facilitate discussions with your group and **give all attendees opportunities to share their thoughts**. Encourage participation.
3. Remind everyone that whatever shared in the group stays within the group.
4. Be sensitive to the Holy Spirit if there's someone who you can lead to receive Jesus as Lord and Savior and be born again.

## Life Group Discussion Proper

### WORSHIP: (15 mins) *Option 1: In person - Home gatherings*

*Suggestions: Assign someone to lead worship or play two praise & worship songs from You Tube.*

**Option 2: In person gatherings at a public place** (at the park, school campus or café) or **Online home gathering** (via Zoom or other online meeting platform)

**WELCOME:(15 mins): IWC - Introduce yourself. Welcome guests/first-time visitors. Cheerfully call someone to do the same.**

**Ice-breaker:** Ask the group and give time for participation.

> *Is there anyone who would like to share a verse you have memorized this past week?*

> *Is there anyone who would like to share something you received from your daily devotions this past week?*

## WORD (30– 45 mins)

**Main Text: Isaiah 9:2,6 NLT**

**Intro:** The foundational text for our new series is **Hebrews 9:28** (please read), “So also Christ was offered once for all time as a sacrifice to take away the sins of many people. He will come again, not to deal with our sins, but to bring salvation to all who are eagerly waiting for him.”

This verse summarizes the significance of Jesus' first coming. He came to deal with the sin problem through His atoning sacrifice on the cross. Jesus came and dealt with the sin problem perfectly, – “as a sacrifice to take away the sins of many people.” highlighting His imminent return – “to bring salvation to all who are eagerly waiting for him.” How we respond to the reasons for His arrival 2000 years ago will prepare us for His eventual return. Jesus the Messiah came to show the way to God! It is to enable us to experience the fullness of a relationship with Him.

## HOW DO WE PREPARE FOR CHRIST'S BIRTH? HOW DO WE RESPOND TO CHRISTMAS?

### 1. He came to be enjoyed by everyone who accepts Him –

The purpose of Christ's coming was for “us.” “For a child is born to us, a Son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And He will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”

A Baby was born 2000 years ago but a Son was given to rule and care for us. “For a child is born to us” - He came for us! In John 3:16, from eternity, God planned to “give” Him. Jesus is the Son of God. Jesus existed eternally as the Son. The word “Son” is used to show the relationship between the God the Father and His Son.

**Q:** Why do you think the Saviour was born as a baby? Why not appear as an adult instead?

What an amazing mystery! There is nothing weaker, more helpless, more dependent than a child. The Messiah could have come as a full grown mature man or an angel. But for Jesus to fully identify with humanity, and to display in His life the servant nature that is in God, He became man! He took the form of man and, **“made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.”** (Philippians 2:7).

Continuation:

**Who is this Saviour based on Isaiah 9:2?**

**Isaiah 9:2 - The government will rest on his shoulders**

The Messiah was prophesied will someday reign as King of Kings and Lord of Lords! The government of the entire world is on His shoulders. This will be fulfilled in the Millennial Reign of Jesus Christ when He will rule the earth forever and ever!

**Who is this Saviour based on Isaiah 9:6?**

**1. Wonderful Counselor**

Wonderful - means *inspiring delight, pleasure, or admiration; extremely good; marvelous*.

The Messiah is first **Wonderful**. The glory of who He is and what He has done for us should fill us with wonder. We can never really learn about Jesus and be bored, of course not! Because He is Wonderful!

**Q: What amazes you about the God of the Bible?**

**2. Counselor.** Jesus is not just a Wise Counsellor but our **Wonderful Counselor**. He is the source of true wisdom that will guide and transform our lives! We are all like dumb sheep. Nothing we do on our own will lead us to safety. We desperately need a wise Counselor!

**Q: When was the last time you sought the counsel of God? What was the situation?**

**3. The Mighty God** - This is a clear statement of absolute deity!

When we are confronted with numerous overwhelming enemies that threaten to defeat and oppress us, our Heavenly Father is a Mighty God! When we allow God to govern our lives, He assures us of His strength to rescue and deliver us. **Read Zephaniah 3:17 NIV**

**Q: When was the last time you depended on the mighty strength of our Mighty God?**

**4. Everlasting Father**

The idea in these Hebrew words is that Jesus is the source or author of all eternity, that He is the Creator Himself! Our God is our Heavenly Everlasting Father! He pledges to be an Eternal Father to us.

*"The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba Father." Romans 8:15*

**Q: How important is it for you that we have God as our Father?**

**5. Prince of Peace** - He is the One who makes peace, especially between God and man. The peace we all are looking for isn't merely the absence of conflict; it's a state of tranquility even amidst challenges.

The good news that Jesus' birth doesn't just offer peace; He is the source of peace! When He governs our lives, peace becomes a constant, regardless of the circumstances.

Read John 14:27, John 16:33 NIV

**Q: Where do you think is the most peaceful place in the world right now?**

**Q: Where do you go when you need some peace of mind?**

**Conclusion:**

We ready ourselves for Christmas much like we do for cherished events or holidays. We decorate our homes with lights, we buy and prepare gifts for our family and those dear to us. We plan meals to share with family and friends. Those are great things, but let the celebration of Christmas start today by making our hearts ready to receive all that Jesus is, by making Him Lord of our lives.

**WHAT IS YOUR BIGGEST TAKE-AWAY FROM THE LESSON?**

Tell your group to partner with someone and ask this question to their partner.

**Q: What impacted you the most from this lesson?**

**WORK: The Challenge & Closing prayer (15 mins.)**

1. Memorize a verse from your devotions this week and be prepared to share it on our next gathering.
2. Please take time in your smaller groups to pray for one another. If there are specific needs, take time to lift them up to God in prayer as well. Ask each other, **"what can I pray for you?"**

**Leader's Notes:** Please remind your group the schedule for the next gathering and to invite people for the next gathering.