

Checking In

1. Take a few minutes to check in with everyone, reflect together upon this: have you ever failed to keep an important promise and what were the results?
2. Church Life- Project Cookie Dough, January 5th Become retreat.

Learning

Knowing God

Key Doctrines

- **Progressive Revelation**- the doctrine in Christianity that the sections of the Bible that were written later contain a fuller revelation of God than the earlier sections. God did not unfold His entire plan to humanity in the entire Old Testament. The Old Testament revelation, though accurate, is incomplete. The fullness of certain teachings cannot be found in the Old Testament.

Key Observations

- Was there anything that stood out to you about this week's sermon, what specifically encouraged or challenged you?
- *Read: Isaiah 7:1-17*
Why does King Ahaz reject God's offer of a sign?

What is the significance of the Lord giving Ahaz the sign of "Immanuel"?

- *Read: Isaiah 8:5-10*
How have the people of Judah put their hope in men and what can we learn from their mistake?
The Lord proclaims judgment upon Judah but what hope does he offer them as their "Immanuel"?

What does this passage teach us about God as promise keeper?

- *Read: Isaiah 9:1-5(cf.11:1-16)*
The focus here shifts to Judah's future, what promises are made to them and what hope is given?
- *Read: Isaiah 9:1-2 & Matthew 4:13-16*
How is this promise fulfilled by Christ?
- *Read: Genesis 9:4, Judges 7:1-8*
How is Gideon's victory over the Midianites a type of Christ's victory on the cross?
- *Read: Genesis 9:6a*
Why is it significant that the pronouncement a "child is born" is followed by the statement "a son is given"?
- *Read: Genesis 9:6 b*
What about Christ from these titles given to Him?
 - Wonderful Counselor
 - Mighty God
 - Everlasting Father
 - Prince of Peace

Listening

Responding to God

In light of this week's sermon in our series, "Peace on Earth," how might the Lord us be asking to rely upon His promises?

- How are you tempted to put your hope in men?
- In what tangible ways are you challenged to make Christ your "Prince of Peace?"
- What does it look like for Christ to be your Immanuel (God with us)?

Loving

Obeying God

- What is happening in my own life right now that I need to share and for which I need prayer?
- This week I am committed to praying for _____ about:

Checking Out

- What was most meaningful about this group session for you (*Give each person 1-2 sentences to share*)?