

Growth Teams

**Week Beginning
Sunday 4th December 2016**

Going deeper

The end of our passage picks up on the theme of light shining in darkness, which echoes one of the great Christological passages, Isaiah 9:1-7, a popular Christmas reading that reminds us of the significance of the coming of Christ.

Read Isaiah 9:1-7

6. Why is light shining in darkness good news? (cf. Gen. 1:3; Rom. 1:21) Who causes the light to shine in the darkness (vs. 7)?

7. From what will God rescue the people? (vs. 3-5) What oppression does Jesus rescue us from? (cf. Rom. 6:23; 2 Cor. 4:4)

8. What is incredible about the description of the child to be born? How does this link with 2 Cor. 4:4?

9. What will this child bring about?

10. How does this ancient Jewish prophecy encourage us to share the good news?

Now do the applying it to our lives questions...

Growth Team News

This week we is the last week of Growth Teams this year! They will be back the week beginning 15th January 2017. However, Growth Teams may want to arrange Christmas or New Year socials in between times.

Whilst the daytime Growth Teams are continuing as normal, there are no evening Growth Teams this term. However, our Old Testament Course with Robin Plant finishes this Tuesday in church at 7:30pm. We will be looking at Daniel.



**Growing in Christ
to glorify God
and enjoy Him forever.**

A Ministry of Glory

2 Corinthians 2:12-4:6 (page 1159)

Space to take notes on the talk

Moses and the _____

The New Covenant:

- i. A message of _____ not _____
- ii. A message of _____ not _____
- iii. A message that is _____ not _____

Why remove the _____?

Starter question

- ❖ What qualities or quirks do you share in common with one of your parents?

Responding to the talk

1. What about this week's talk most encouraged, challenged or informed you?
2. Read 2 Corinthians 2:12-3:6
 - a. What does Paul say about his ministry in 2:12-17?
 - b. What is the evidence that his ministry is from God?
 - c. What would you say are the inspiration and aims of Paul's ministry?
3. Read 2 Corinthians 3:6-18
 - a. Read Jeremiah 31:31-34. What is new about the New Covenant according to Jeremiah?
 - b. Why is the New Covenant more glorious than the old?
 - c. What is it about the New Covenant that brings true transformation?
4. Read 2 Corinthians 4:1-6
 - a. Why doesn't Paul lose heart, use deception or distort God's word?
 - b. Why doesn't everyone respond positively to the gospel?
 - c. What is the essence of Paul's preaching?

You may like to do the 'Going Deeper' questions over the page.

Applying it to our lives

10. Someone says that religion is just about following rules and rituals. How would you explain that Christianity is different?
11. A friend is feeling annoyed that no-one seems interested in the Christian gospel. How might you encourage them?