

## SCRIPTURE READING: ISAIAH 9:1-7

9 Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honor Galilee of the nations, by the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan—

2 The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;  
on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.

3 You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy;  
they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest,  
as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder.

4 For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them,  
the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor.

5 Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood  
will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire.

6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders.  
And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

7 Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end.  
He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom,  
establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever.  
The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

## DISCUSSION PROMPTS FOR SMALL GROUPS, FRIEND GROUPS & HOUSEHOLDS:

1. **Read the verses above.** What stands out to you and why? What questions does this passage raise in your mind? (Feel free to wrestle with these questions together)
2. How do Ahaz, Herod and Cesar each pursue false peace? What are some examples of ways people pursue false peace today?
3. What are some ways that Jesus disrupts false peace in order to bring about real peace?
4. **Read Luke 19:41-43.** Jerusalem was destroyed in 70 AD because the Romans decided it was not worth the resources required to try to maintain peace where so many insurgencies took place. In light of that, why does Jesus weep and say what He says in these verses?
5. What steps can you take this week to disrupt false peace in your own life, so that you can pursue real peace? What's your first move?