

- **But 'Do not fear'**

- **A future vision**

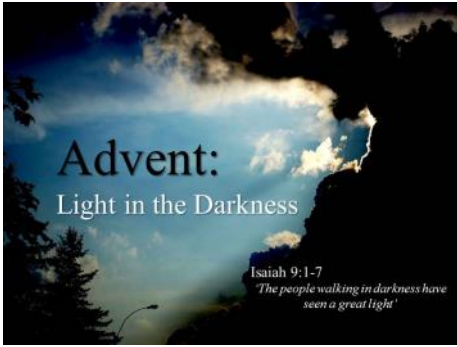
- **Light & joy replace darkness, fear & anger (v1-3)**

- **Peace comes through a royal child (v4-7)**

- **...to fulfil... (Matthew 4:12-17)**

Conversation starter:

What do you most look forward to over the coming month?



Discussion group questions

Some of these questions are personal and others are more general. You will find it helpful to have heard the talk so why not listen at <http://leightonbaptists.org.uk/media-links/current-teaching/>

- Before diving into questions together, stand back and observe the verses we are looking at. Read Isaiah 8v11-22 and 9v1-7. Take a few minutes to compare common themes that occur in both passages. How does Chapter 9 treat them in comparison to chapter 8?
- Imagine hearing these verses in Isaiah's day. What would they have meant to you? How would they change your hopes, dreams and way of life?
- God is the focus of action in 9v1-7. List all that he does. Why does he do it?
- Think of three challenges facing people in our world today. How is the arrival of this Son the answer?
- Remind yourself why likening the coming of this son to 'Midian' is a good example (v4). What kind of a warrior was Gideon? What does it tell us about how God works and why?
- Look in v6-7. What characteristics of the Son are the most comforting, the most challenging and the most hope-inspiring?
- How should this shape the way we think about and prepare for Christmas this year?

Spend some time rejoicing in the light that is to come.