

SG

Your group matters.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

- Icebreaker -

Share your favorite line from a Christmas song and why it's your favorite.

1. Read [Isaiah 9:1-7](#). Pastor Tony said this prophecy about the coming of Jesus was given to a people who were divided, threatened, vulnerable and exhausted. How do those words describe your situation today and how does the coming of Jesus bring comfort and hope?
2. The verses we just read in Isaiah focus on the great reversal being brought about by the coming of this child. What are some ways God has reversed the trajectory of your life through Jesus?
3. Pastor Tony spoke of how God's perspective and work is not limited to the here and now but is continually making all things new. What is God reversing in your life and what is He making new through Christ in you?
4. Read [Luke 1:46-55](#). Note how, just as with the Isaiah passage, Mary claims what is yet to come as having already taken place and rejoices in it. What is God doing and what are you embracing as true even though you've yet to experience it?
5. The "Song of Mary" (*The Magnificat*) has long been celebrated in the Church because of its promise of hope. If you were to write your own *magnificat*, what message of hope would you embrace and declare?
6. Pastor Tony said that Mary allowed God to disrupt her life in order to bring hope. How is Jesus asking to interrupt your Christmas season to do the same?

Day One: [Mark 8](#)

Day Two: [Genesis 36](#)

Day Three: [2 Corinthians 4](#)

Day Four: [1 John 1](#)

Day Five: [Job 36](#)

This Personal Guide has been adapted from Professor Grant Horner's Bible Reading System.

PERSONAL GUIDE

Christmas at RIVERSIDE



“*U* Came, *U* Came,
Emmanuel”

DEC 18, 2022

PASTOR TONY MYLES

MYRC.CHURCH



"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

Pastor Tony Myles

MESSAGE NOTES

The most challenging thing about Christmas isn't the hectic pace, shopping, decorating or awkward moments... the most challenging thing about Christmas is the _____.

- Maybe you don't find it _____ - and _____ around it.
- Maybe you find it too _____ - and _____ from it.

Most of our disorientation comes from not realizing the _____.

Isaiah 9:1-7, NLT

This Promise was shared in an _____ era.

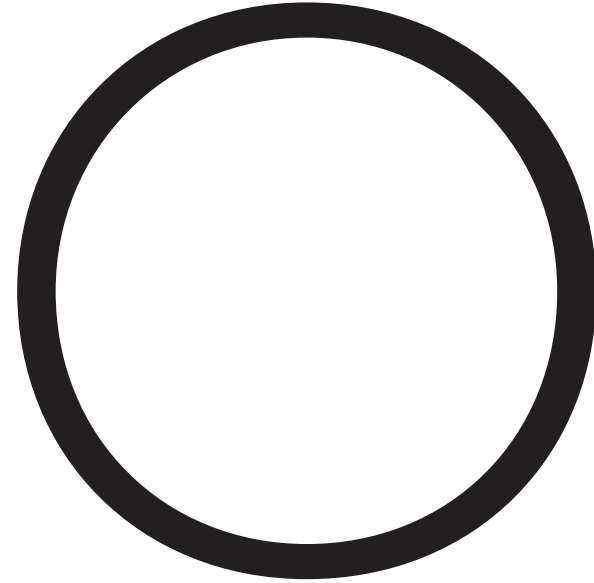
- God's people were _____.
- _____ fought for control.
- Everyone felt _____.
- Many wondered if God was aware and active.
- One chapter earlier, they learned they would be _____.

This Promise also shared real _____ - a future of _____.

- All of this is spoken in the "prophetic perfect" tense:
 - v.2, NLT: "The people who walk in darkness will see a great light. For those who live in a land of deep darkness, a light will shine."
 - v.2, NIV: "The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned."
- When a prophet spoke, it was after being lifted in perspective by God to see the past, present and future _____.
- This is why the promise of everything reversing when a child was born was so outrageous, and yet so _____.

Personal question: Where are you in need of this?

After seven centuries of waiting... [Luke 1:26-38, NLT](#)



Antiphon: "___" vs. "_____" reflects _____ up to be _____ by God.

- Mary's antiphon was reflected in _____ ([Luke 1:46-55](#))
- When her life was disrupted, she fully embraced _____.
- Will you let Jesus interrupt your "_____?"

Don't miss this...

One of the most spectacular Christmas displays is you inviting God into your _____ through your '_____' to Him.

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey! Let us know, too, and fill out our connect card (digital* or hard copy).

*MYRC.LINK/CONNECT or text **riverside** to **94000**



SMALL GROUP
guide on the back



MESSAGE NOTES

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

Pastor Tony Myles

After seven centuries of waiting... [Luke 1:26-38, NLT](#)

The most challenging thing about Christmas isn't the hectic pace, shopping, decorating or awkward moments... the most challenging thing about Christmas is the Christmas story.

- Maybe you don't find it captivating - and skip around it.
- Maybe you find it too captivating - and disconnect from it.

Most of our disorientation comes from not realizing the backstory.

[Isaiah 9:1-7, NLT](#)

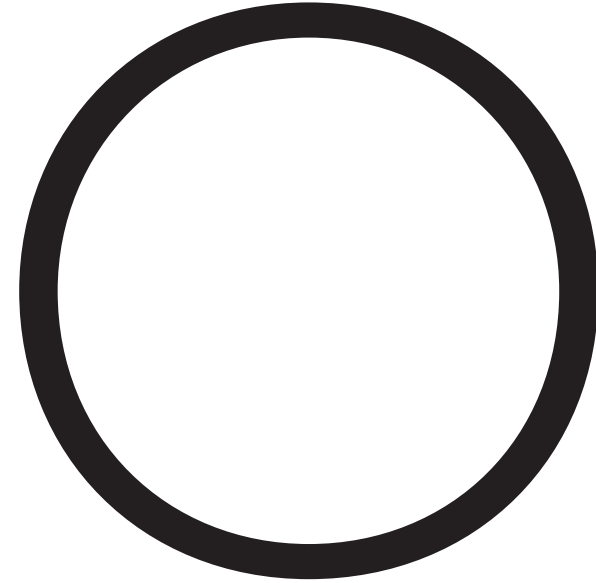
This Promise was shared in an exhausting era.

- God's people were divided.
- World powers fought for control.
- Everyone felt vulnerable.
- Many wondered if God was aware and active.
- One chapter earlier, they learned they would be invaded.

This Promise also shared real Hope - a future of good things.

- All of this is spoken in the "prophetic perfect" tense:
 - v.2, NLT: "The people who walk in darkness will see a great light. For those wh live in a land of deep darkness, a light will shine."
 - v.2, NIV: "The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of feep darkness a light has dawned."
- When a prophet spoke, it was after being lifted in perspective by God to see the past, present and future all at once.
- This is why the promise of everything reversing when a child was born was so outrageous, and yet so possible.

Personal question: Where are you in need of this?



Antiphon: "O" vs. "oh" reflects opening up to be moved by God.

- Mary's antiphon was reflected in song ([Luke 1:46-55](#))
- When her life was disrupted, she fully embraced Jesus.
- Will you let Jesus interrupt your "Christmas?"

Don't miss this...

One of the most spectacular Christmas displays is you inviting God into your circle through your 'YES!' to Him.

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey! Let us know, too, and fill out our connect card (digital* or hard copy).

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