

MAIN POINT

God is able to do more than we can possibly imagine so that He might receive glory. This has been displayed most clearly in the coming of Christ.

INTRODUCTION

What is the best news you could receive right now?

How does good news help you to make it through hard times?

Isaiah's audience was an entire nation who desperately needed good news. Oftentimes the role of God's prophets was to deliver warnings and judgment. Yet in today's passage, Isaiah relayed to God's people the greatest news they could ever receive at just the right time—the birth of the promised Messiah, whose reign will never end.

DISCUSSION

> READ ISAIAH 9:6-7 AND EPHESIANS 3:20-21.

List everything you learn about Jesus in the verses from Isaiah.

Of these names and facts, which encourages you the most right now? Why?

What assurance did Israel have that this prophecy would be accomplished (v. 7)?

What assurance do you have that God's plans will come to pass today?

Put Ephesians 3:20 in your own words.

Was Paul saying that God's great power and glory over the earth is lofty and out of reach, or something within the grasp of those who belong to Him? Explain.

What are some signs a person's expectations of God are too small? Where have you been guilty of this?

How does the coming of Christ give evidence of God's ability to do more than we ask or imagine?

If Jesus shattered the oppressive yoke on the cross, then why do so many believers still live in oppression? What are some reasons we are afraid or hesitant to hope for more than we can ask or imagine?

Read Isaiah 9:3. What would it look like for you to live this out, rejoicing before God because of Jesus?

APPLICATION

What comfort does it give you in your current circumstances to know that God fulfilled His promise in Isaiah through the birth of Jesus, the Messiah?