**The Hero Discussion Questions**

**Sermon Summary:** In the one story of God, there is only one Hero and His name is Jesus. You and I mess things up when we try to make ourselves (or someone else) the hero. But when we acknowledge and follow Jesus as the King of Kings and Prince of Peace our lives contribute to the advancing plot of God’s story. Our calling is to live out the four purposes of Jesus described in Isaiah 9 - 1) to reveal the truth about God; 2) to resist the powers of evil; 3) to renew the hearts of sinners and; 4) to reunite the remnant of God’s people. How can you follow the Prince of Peace by being an agent of shalom this week?

Benediction: Eph. 1:21-23

**The Hero**

Isaiah 9:1-7

“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased.” Luke 2:14

* Our dual purpose: to **Glorify** God and bring **Peace** to people.

**What Jesus Came to Do:**

1. Reveal the **Truth** about God (v. 1-3)
2. Resist the **Enslaving** powers of evil (v. 4-6; 11:4-9)
3. Renew the **Hearts** of sinners (v. 6; 11:5; Jn. 13:34-35)
4. Reunite the **Remnant** of God’s people (11:11-12; Eph. 2:14-16)

“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.” Isaiah 9:6-7

**Get Started:**

1. Who is your favorite superhero? Why?
2. How is that hero inspired by and somewhat derived from Jesus, the ultimate Hero?

**Dig In:** Read Isaiah 7:1-7

1. What was going on in Israel at this time? What was King Ahaz afraid of?
2. How did God speak to Ahaz through Isaiah? What was meaningful about Isaiah bringing his son Shear-jashub (“a remnant will return”)?
3. Read Isaiah 7:10-17. What did the sign of “Immanuel” mean to Ahaz and the Israelites in those days?
4. Read Isaiah 8:3-4. How did God fulfill His sign promise to Ahaz? How did that fulfillment foreshadow the greater fulfillment to come in the Messiah?
5. Read Isaiah 9:1-7. What stands out to you here? What do you find most encouraging and most challenging?

**Move Forward:**

“Most middle-class Americans tend to worship their work, work at their play, and to play at their worship. As a result, their meanings and values are distorted. Their relationships disintegrate faster than they can keep them in repair, and their lifestyles resemble a cast of characters in search of a plot.” Gordon Dahl, in *Have we Lost the Plot* by Fran Sciacca

1. Jesus is the Hero of the One Story. His life, death and resurrection are the climax. Why is it so important to remember this in our daily lives?
2. Look at the four purposes of Jesus. Which of them do you regularly do? Which of them are most challenging for you?
3. How is the Lord leading you to join Him in His restorative work this week? Pray for courage and strength to partner with the Prince of Peace!