

Firestarter 4

Scripture: Isaiah 9–10

Before you read

1. Gather a pen, paper, and highlighters (for marking in your Bible) if you don't want to mark in your Bible. Print off this sheet and mark it here.
2. Pray, asking God for wisdom and understanding of the words you are about to read.
3. Read the section more than one time.
 - First, read to understand
 - Second, read to notice
 - Third, read for questions. Record your questions as you read and see if you can answer them. Then choose three questions from the observation section and find answers to them.
 - Fourth, In chapters 9 & 10, mark words that demonstrate the contrast between **light** and **dark, sorrow** and **joy**.

READ: Isaiah 9–10

OBSERVATION:

What does Isaiah mean when he says that “darkness and despair will not go on forever” (9:1)? (See 9:1-7 note.)

What clues tell you who 9:1-7 is talking about?

According to 9:6, what names would characterize the Messiah, and how are these names significant to Jesus Christ? (See 9:6 note, subpoints 1–4.)

What is the “message against Jacob” (9:8)? Why is Jacob important? (See 9:8—10:4 note.)

According to 10:1-2, What was the government doing to bring God's judgment?

What is “the remnant of Israel” (10:20), and how would God use it? (See 10:20 note)

APPLICATION:

Regardless of how people respond to God, His plans will always prevail, and He will always fulfill His purpose. In the process, God can use anyone—including those who defy Him—to accomplish His plans. Sometimes God uses ungodly people to teach His followers vital lessons. Yet, in the end, the Lord will ultimately punish or reward individuals—even nations—for their actions and responses to Him.

Think about the world today. What parallels do you see to chapter 10?

Action Step: Think of a person who seems lonely or an outcast in your friend group, church, or school. Invite that person to hang out; you could go for coffee, play basketball, or just sit with them at lunch. Pray for them and encourage them in a personal, practical way.

PRAY:

Thank Jesus for the joy, peace, and freedom you have in your relationship with Him. If you don't have joy, peace, or freedom right now, ask for it. Praise Jesus for being your "Wonderful Counselor" and "Mighty God."