

# The Pray More Advent Retreat

Inspiring talks to help you  
prepare to celebrate the  
birth of our Lord,  
Jesus Christ



## Isaiah, the Prophet of Christmas

by Stephen Beale

### Reflective Questions

“Behold a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel. For a child is born to us, and a son is given to us, and the government is upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful Counsellor, God the Mighty, the Father of the world to come, the Prince of Peace.”

- Isaiah

- Isaiah declares that something wholly new will spring forth with Jesus’ coming at Christmas. This happened thousands of years ago and it also happens at each Christmas. Something wholly new can spring forth in our hearts and in our lives as we celebrate Jesus Christ’s entrance into the world. How will you live differently each day after Christmas with this realization? Will you look at the world differently? Will you carry your crosses differently?
- When Jesus Christ comes, Isaiah says that the desert and parched land will be glad, because He will pour water upon the thirsty ground. We have been waiting for Jesus and thirsting for Him. What is it that you have been waiting for from the Lord? In what ways do you feel parched and in need of His pouring out of water?
- Jesus tells us that He came so that we may have life, and have it abundantly. Hold that prayer intention of yours -- the one you brought up just a few seconds ago -- with great hope for the Lord is coming to bring you life. Renew your hope that He comes specifically for you. What things

can you do this week to remind yourself to have hope amidst the darkness?

- Jesus Christ is the life of the world and when He comes to us at Christmas, He lightens our world. It's easy to celebrate Christmas during Advent because of the music, the presents at stores, the wrapping paper and desserts that are all out so early in the season. But it's important to remember that Advent is a somber season -- a peaceful one full of anticipation. How can you commemorate this in your home? How will you keep Advent Advent and celebrate Christmas on Christmas Day and afterwards? Is there a way that you can incorporate darkness into Advent -- like not putting up lights on your Christmas tree, or not lighting any candles? And is there a way you can incorporate light into Christmas?
- Isaiah declares that there will be overwhelming joy at Christ's coming. Do you know someone who is joyful? What does that look like? How can you become more joyful this Christmas?