**FOR TO US A CHILD IS BORN**

Isaiah 7:1–14; 8:5–22; 9:1–7

Key Verse: 9:6

1. What crisis was King Ahaz facing, and how did it affect him and his people (7:1–2)? How did the LORD counsel him through Isaiah (3–9)? Why did the LORD offer a sign, and why did Ahaz refuse (10–11; 2Ki16:1–9)? What did Isaiah tell him, and how could this sign of “Immanuel” help Ahaz (12–14)?
2. When Ahaz refused the sign, what did the LORD plan to do (8:5–10)? How did the LORD warn Isaiah (11–15), and what did Isaiah resolve to do (16–20)?
3. How did Isaiah describe his people when they rejected the LORD’s help (8:21–22)? In contrast, what did he see happening “in the latter time,” and how did Jesus’ coming fulfill this (9:1–2; cf. Mt4:12–16)? How would his coming affect God’s people (3–5)?
4. Read 9:6; how did this fulfill 7:14 (Mt1:23)? Think about what each name of Immanuel Jesus means: “Wonderful Counselor”; “Mighty God”; “Everlasting Father”; “Prince of Peace.” What else did God promise, and how will this be done (7)?
5. In light of these prophecies of Isaiah, what does the birth of Jesus mean to us today? How can we experience his light, his joy and his peace this Christmas?