

Date: _____



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

Jesus Is the King Series, Lesson 28

Lesson Title: Waiting for the King

Take Home Point: Many years passed and people forgot; but God, ever faithful, did not.

Warm-Up:

Remember a time you eagerly anticipated something—perhaps an event, a restored relationship, a new opportunity—but it was a long time in coming? (Possibly you are still waiting!) How did the long wait make you feel?

Read: Isaiah 9:2, 6-7, Matthew 1:1-7

Observation (What happened?):

What was God's promise to his people through Isaiah and the writer of Psalm 89?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

Isaiah 9:2 said that the people walked in darkness. What darkness is Isaiah talking about?

How long will the reign of Jesus as King last?

Insight:

Psalm 89 was written about 1,000 years before Jesus was born, and Isaiah wrote his prophecy about 700 years before Jesus' birth. It was even 400 years since the prophet Malachi spoke the last words in the Old Testament. That's a long time to wait! During that time, the nation of Israel was conquered and the people scattered throughout the known world, with only a remnant returning to the land God had given his people. No doubt over the years most Jews went about their lives without a thought of God's promise. But some, especially the religious leaders, eagerly anticipated the restoration of Israel as an earthly kingdom and found it hard to wait. They forgot God's spiritual focus and his timing. That is why they misunderstood the coming of Jesus as the humble Messiah, the King who would die on the cross and rise again to establish an eternal spiritual kingdom.

Application (What does it mean to me?):

What is one thing you are waiting for that provides an opportunity to trust God's timing?

God's great light, Jesus, shines on you. What kids in your group need a special dose of light in the darkness of their world? Pray for them now.