



Look Up

Isaiah prophesied to the nation during a time when they were facing external threats. The people were coming to understand that they could not depend on their king to protect them. Into this time of fear and upheaval, God promised that one day a deliverer would come. Our passage refers to Jesus, our Deliverer, as the “firstborn” over all of creation. This doesn’t mean that he was born or created. Paul, the writer of Colossians, uses a word that indicates supremacy in rank. Jesus is over every created thing! He is truly our Mighty God!

- Read Isaiah 9:6-7 once and then Colossians 1:15-23 several times together as a group.

Did anything catch your attention as you read this passage? What did you like? What is challenging or difficult to understand?

- Which description of Jesus stands out to you from the Colossians passage?
- What are some of the implications of the fact that, in Jesus, all things were created? What kinds of things fall into the categories of thrones, powers, rulers and authorities?
- Why do you think this passage connects Jesus’ power with our need for having peace with God?

- Think about the challenges you are facing in your life right now. What does this passage say about Jesus’ capability to help you?
- How does Jesus’ work as creator show his power? How does Jesus’ work as reconciler show his power?

Read the passage again. What does it say about God? What does it say about us?

- How does this passage show that God has met our greatest needs through Jesus?
- Do you tend to see God as your judge, we have sinned, and your greatest need is forgiveness? Or do you think more of God as your friend, and you have damaged your relationship, and your greatest need is reconciliation?

Look Ahead

- Take a few minutes to reflect quietly on what you have discussed.
- **How will you obey this passage?**
- **What is the name of the person you will share this passage with this week?**
- Take a few minutes to pray for one another