



## Life Guide

applying God's Word to life

### Christian, Look to the Light! January 21-23, 2023

*Isaiah 8:19-9:4* When someone tells you to consult mediums and spiritists, who whisper and mutter, should not a people inquire of their God? Why consult the dead on behalf of the living? 20 Consult God's instruction and the testimony of warning. If anyone does not speak according to this word, they have no light of dawn. 21 Distressed and hungry, they will roam through the land; when they are famished, they will become enraged and, looking upward, will curse their king and their God. 22 Then they will look toward the earth and see only distress and darkness and fearful gloom, and they will be thrust into utter darkness. 9 Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honor Galilee of the nations, by the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan—  
2 The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.  
3 You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder.  
4 For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor.

1. What is Seasonal Affective Disorder (S.A.D.)? Have you ever suffered from it? How is it treated?

2. What evidence of spiritual darkness was visible in Israel in Isaiah's day (Cf. 8:19; 4:8-25, etc.)

3. What evidence of spiritual darkness is visible in our world today?

4. What do you find more distressing: the darkness within you or the darkness around you?

5. How do you know that the "light that has dawned" is a reference to Jesus? (And if it is, why does the prophet speak in the past tense?)

6. Who are those "living in the land of the shadow of death"? Why?

7. The Light of Christ allows us to see things that we couldn't see when we were in the dark. Give an example.

8. What does the light of Christ look like when it's reflected?

9. How does your faith in Jesus help you cope with the darkness in and around you?