**“Celebrating Abundance” Book Study - Week 2 Reflection Questions**

**Theme: Paying Attention to God’s New Reality**

**To consider as you read the devotions:**

As you read through the devotions each day, make a note about the words or ideas that really speak to you. What brings you comfort? What challenges your way of thinking or understanding the world?

**Here are a couple of questions to get you started.**

Share an example of a time in your life or the life of the church that you could see God at work. What or who helped you to see? (Don’t worry if you can’t think of anything right away. Let the question sit with you over the coming days and see what comes to you.)

In which areas of your life do you feel you need to slow down or pay more attention to see “God’s holiness”? What do you need to let go of for this to happen?

**Biblical Reflection**

Read the following passage slowly.

**Isaiah 9:2–7 (NRSV)**

[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah+9%3A2%E2%80%937+&version=NRSV#fen-NRSV-17832a)] The people who walked in darkness
    have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
    on them light has shined.
**3**You have multiplied the nation,
    you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
    as with joy at the harvest,
    as people exult when dividing plunder.
**4**For the yoke of their burden,
    and the bar across their shoulders,
    the rod of their oppressor,
    you have broken as on the day of Midian.
**5**For all the boots of the tramping warriors
    and all the garments rolled in blood
    shall be burned as fuel for the fire.
**6**For a child has been born for us,
    a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
    and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
    Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
**7**His authority shall grow continually,
    and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
    He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
    from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

**Some questions for your consideration.**

* This passage from Isaiah is full of images to describe a coming saviour and what his kingdom will be like. What images stand out to you the most? Discuss their meaning.
* Isaiah’s vision is one of abundance: light in darkness, joy in harvest, burdens lifted and a saviour born for us. How are you living into this vision? What does/could your faith community do to help people become citizens of this new reality?
* As you “pay attention to the other world, the unreasonable, inexplicable world saturated with God’s holiness” (p. 27), where is God calling your attention? Where, what or who might God be calling your attention to that you’ve failed to see before?

Please don’t worry if you don’t come up with responses right away. These are challenging questions. It may be that you are being invited to simply sit with these ideas at this time.