

## **1.13.19 - Isaiah: Light to the Nations - Tim**

### Leader Prep Section

- Prepare by reading through the questions and scripture passage so that you can select a few questions that are best suited to your group.
- Try to work through at least one question from each of the sections - Hook, Book, Look, Took in order to move from observation to application.
- When possible spend time in prayer for each member of your group.

### **Goal: Ahaz, God, and Fear**

Remember to choose just a few questions from each section, as needed for your group.

**Hook** - Ice breaker type questions to help make the transition into the study time.

- What are some things that stood out to you from Sunday's sermon?
- Has there been a time in your life when you refused help and then totally failed? Why did you refuse help?

### Background / Reading

#### **Read: Isaiah 7:1-12**

- Does anyone have any questions about this passage? Or observations that stand out to you immediately? (Remind those who share that we'll likely return to their ideas in our discussion!)

**Book** - These questions are designed to get you into the text itself.

- After reading through the passage as a group, read it through again using The Message. (This is a long and somewhat confusing passage - reading it in The Message may help clear up some questions for the group.)
- Who is Ahaz? What do we learn about him from this chapter? (His personality, position, experiences, etc)
- What is the meaning of the second half of v. 9 - "If you do not stand firm in your faith, you will not stand at all"?

**Look** - These questions will take you on a deeper look at what the passage means for us today.

- Look again at v. 3. Ahaz is checking the city's water supply in case there is an attack from Ephraim. But, God had already promised that Judah would be spared. What does this action reveal about Ahaz?
- Why does God tell Ahaz to ask for a sign that Judah won't be overthrown by Aram and Israel / Ephraim?
- Why does Ahaz refuse to ask for a sign? Why is that bad? (Ahaz doesn't need to ask for a sign that God will save Judah because Ahaz has already decided how he'll deal with this problem. He claims he doesn't want to put God to the test, but actually he just doesn't think he needs God's help at all.)

**Took** - These questions are focused on applying the big idea from the text to our lives.

- When you face struggles in life, who do you look to for help--God or your own strength? Does it depend on the situation? Why?
- What makes it hard for you to ask God for help?
- Is there a situation in your life right now that you've been trying to fix on your own? How can we pray for God to help you?
- Take time to pray individually for people if they shared something difficult they are going through. If many people shared or your group is large, you may want to consider having people pray in smaller groups for the sake of time. Here are some scriptures to guide your prayers: