

1.20.19 - Isaiah: Light to the Nations - Christian

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: God's judgement is good news

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?
- What are your children's names? What do they mean and why did you choose them? If you don't have children, what is the meaning of your name and why did your parents choose it?

Background / Reading

Read: Isaiah 8:16-18 and then go back to 7:10 - 8:18 (Reading the last two verses at the beginning will help give context to the whole passage)

- 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.

- Who are the three children God is using as symbols for what he is doing in Judah? (vs. 7:3, 7:14, 8:1)
- In 7:10-16, the Lord describes the second child, "Immanuel". From what you can read in the text, describe the child and his purpose.
- In 8:1-10, the Lord describes the third child, "Maher-shalal-hash-baz" (Swift to the plunder, quick to the spoil). From what you can read in the text, describe the child and his purpose.

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

- What is the significance behind each of the names of the three children? (Ex: "A Remnant Will Return" appears when Isaiah is sharing a message of hope with Ahaz--that Judah will not be completely destroyed)
- When we read about Immanuel, we most likely think the idea of God being with us is GOOD news. How could it be BAD news for some people?

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

- Think of a hero from a story or a movie you are familiar with. What does it look like to be on the hero's "good side"? What happens when other characters oppose him or her?

- In a similar way, the idea of “God with us” is a kind of double-edged sword: depending on who you are and your standing with God, it can be good news or bad news. How is that actually good news in the end? (God brings judgement to those who oppose him, but in the end, he uses his judgement to bring justice and to restore the world and his people)
- Read these verses together to see the good news of God’s judgement: Job 35:9; Proverbs 21:15; Proverbs 22:22-23; Isaiah 61:1-3; Luke 18:7-8
- Pray together as a group on behalf of those who are oppressed for God to bring justice to this world. Pray for specific areas of need you see in the world, in our country, in Bellingham, etc.