

1.27.19 - 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: Assyria and Babylon Will Get Their Due. God holds the nations accountable for their actions even while seeking their redemption.

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

Video Resource: You might want to check you [The Bible Project's video on justice](#) as a leader or with your group this week.

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?

Background / Reading

Read: Isaiah 10:5-19; Isaiah 14:3-8

- 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.

- **Read Isaiah 10:5-19.** What is happening in this passage?
- What was God's purpose towards Judah/Israel in v. 6? How did God describe them and why? (hint: Remember all of the woes?)
- **Read Isaiah 14:3-8.** What is happening in this passage?
- What does the Lord promise Israel through Isaiah's prophecy?

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

- God describes the judgement he will bring on Israel/Judah first (Isaiah 7), then He lists other nations he will judge (Assyria & Babylon). What do you think is the significance of this order? (He judges the house of God/church first)
- Look at the Isaiah 14 passage again. Why do you think this would good news to Israel?
- In 10:13, the king of Assyria in his pride says, "By the strength of my hand I have done this, and by my wisdom, because I have understanding." How do we proclaim this in our own lives?
- Note for leaders: This passage brings up some interesting points about violence and God's judgement. Feel free to discuss the questions your group has, knowing that you might not come up with a satisfying answer! Some questions we had:
 - How does God use Assyria to accomplish his purposes? Does this make you uncomfortable? Why?

- Why is God angry with Assyria even though he used Assyria to accomplish his purposes?

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

- When you read of the evils that these nations have done, it seems as though God's judgement is long overdue. It would bring His justice and righteous rule. Do you typically think of God's judgment as good news? How does that make you feel?
- What would the world look like if God did not judge the evil in it? Does it make Him more or less loving to bring this judgement?
- Think of a current situation where someone or a group of people have been deeply wronged (in the world, in your life, in the life of someone you know). Share about that situation with the group. How do you long for God's judgement and justice to come into that situation? Pray together for this to be accomplished.