

3.10.19 - Isaiah: Light to the Nations - Christian

God's Unexpected Deliverer(s)

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.

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?
- Can you think of a time when God worked outside of your expectations--either in the way he did things or with whom?

Background / Reading

Read: You can ask people to read each passage, or you can use the one that is stitched together below. Isaiah 44:1-2, 41:14, 43:4, 44:24, 44:26, 44:28-45:1, 45:13, 46:11, 47:1-4

44:1 "But now listen, Jacob, my servant, Israel, whom I have chosen.

2 This is what the Lord says—he who made you, who formed you in the womb, and who will help you: Do not be afraid, Jacob, my servant, Jeshurun, whom I have chosen.

41:14 Do not be afraid, you worm Jacob, little Israel, do not fear, for I myself will help you," declares the Lord, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel.

43:4 Since you are precious and honored in my sight, and because I love you, I will give people in exchange for you, nations in exchange for your life.

44:24 "This is what the Lord says—your Redeemer, who formed you in the womb: I am the Lord, the Maker of all things, who stretches out the heavens, who spreads out the earth by myself,

44:26 who carries out the words of his servants and fulfills the predictions of his messengers, who says of Jerusalem, 'It shall be inhabited,' of the towns of Judah, 'They shall be rebuilt,' and of their ruins, 'I will restore them,'

44:28 who says of Cyrus, 'He is my shepherd and will accomplish all that I please; he will say of Jerusalem, "Let it be rebuilt," and of the temple, "Let its foundations be laid.'"

45:1 "This is what the Lord says to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I take hold of to subdue nations before him and to strip kings of their armor, to open doors before him so that gates will not be shut:

45:13 I will raise up Cyrus in my righteousness: I will make all his ways straight. He will rebuild my city and set my exiles free, but not for a price or reward, says the Lord Almighty."

46:11 From the east I summon a bird of prey; from a far-off land, a man to fulfill my purpose. What I have said, that I will bring about; what I have planned, that I will do.

47:1 "Go down, sit in the dust, Virgin Daughter Babylon; sit on the ground without a throne, queen city of the Babylonians. No more will you be called tender or delicate.

2 Take millstones and grind flour; take off your veil. Lift up your skirts, bare your legs, and wade through the streams.

3 Your nakedness will be exposed and your shame uncovered. I will take vengeance; I will spare no one.”

4 Our Redeemer—the Lord Almighty is his name—is the Holy One of Israel.

Does anyone have any questions about this summary? Or observations that stand out to you immediately?

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

- Can someone summarize what is happening in this “courtroom scene”?
- Why was Israel so upset that God chose Cyrus to execute his plans to free his people?

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

- How does God describe his people Israel in 44:1-2, 41:14, and 43:4? (servant, chosen, worm, little, precious, honored, loved) How does this help us understand both our lives and God? Consider Isaiah 55:8-9 and Proverbs 3:5-6.
- Why does God often use unexpected people or circumstances to carry out his will?

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

- God is jealous for his reputation as one who is sovereign and good. How can you talk about your life and circumstances in a way that honors God as one who is in control of everything?
- Are there ways you’re putting limits on God regarding how he does things (how he provides for you, guides you, answers your prayers)? How can you learn to identify ways you’re limiting him?