

COMMUNITY GROUP QUESTIONS FOR ISAIAH

WARM UP

Read: Isaiah 40

Imagine someone says to you, "I have some good news and some bad news. Which do you want to hear first?" How would you reply and why would you choose that order? How would you feel if the good news far outweighed and even overcame the bad news?

EXPLORATION

1. Isaiah is the first book of prophecy. One of the major themes in the books of prophecy is the need for people to repent. This theme continues in Jesus' message (Matt. 4:17) and in the writings of the apostles. For good descriptions of repentance, see Deut. 30:1-3 & 11-16, 2 Chron. 7:14 and Eph. 4:28. From these verses, how would you describe what repentance looks like (note that these passages don't just say "STOP!")?
2. God's attributes and His identity are on full display in the book of Isaiah. In 6:1-8, Isaiah has a vision of the Lord sitting on a throne. What does Isaiah see, hear and feel as he looks at this vision and senses he is in God's presence?
3. Isaiah provides some of the clearest prophecies about Jesus. He does so more than 700 years before Jesus is born! Look at 7:14, 11:1-5 and 52:13-53:12 and list some specific ways Jesus fulfills these prophecies and what you learn about Him?

4. Why do you think the Jews didn't recognize Jesus when He came, even though He fulfilled so much prophecy? (Hint: Is. 6:9-10, Matt. 13:13-15)

5. Look back at Isaiah 40 again and look for as many statements as you can find about God. As you find them, say them out loud and as a group, take a little time to speak about how the Lord has shown up in your lives in these ways. Use this as an opportunity to praise the Lord and fulfill what the Bible says about praising Him to one another.

APPLICATION

God repeatedly refers to Himself as the Redeemer, Savior, Mighty One, the Holy One of Israel and The Rock (e.g., 41:14, 44:6-8, 60:15-16, 26:3-4). These names and the ones you listed in question 5 are His names. What impact do you think it would have on your prayer life if you used these names for God in addition to the names you normally use? Examples might be to pray to Our Healer (Yahweh Rapha) when you or someone in your group is sick or to The Prince of Peace or The Lord My Peace (Yahweh Shalom) when you are anxious or to The Comforter (one name for the Holy Spirit) when you are grieving or to My Redeemer and Savior when you sin? Try this approach to prayer during your group prayer time and during the coming week, and don't forget to thank Him for being all that He is to you.