

Isaiah

| SEASON 1

Group Guide:
Week 1

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

There are four components to a healthy group: Word, prayer, relationships, and reaching out.

In this guide, we will study Isaiah 1-5 using inductive Bible study, which has three components: observation, interpretation, and application.

As the leader of your group, feel free to use whatever parts of this guide most help you do this!

CONNECT *BREAK THE ICE AND GET PEOPLE TALKING*

- Have you ever lived somewhere where you felt like an outsider? What made you feel that way?
 - Have you ever read the book of Isaiah before? What was it like?
 - Discipleship check-in:
 - Have you prayed and read your Bible consistently the past week?
 - Who is someone you're praying to share Jesus with this week, and what's one way you can love them well?
-

INTRODUCTION

The book of Isaiah can feel like reading a book that is from another world and in some ways that is true. It was written long ago for a different group of people who spoke a different language and were experiencing different social and political problems. But in its pages we will see that God is at work in the midst of the chaos and has a plan not only for the Israelites, but the entire world.

Today we will be studying the first five chapters of Isaiah and the current state of Judah and who God wants to make them into.

OBSERVATIONS *WHAT DOES THE TEXT SAY?*

WATCH: [The Bible Project video on Isaiah](#)

READ: ALL of Isaiah 1-5. Feel free to do this in what ever way is best for your group. It is okay if this takes a while.

DISCUSS:

All the questions in the observation, interpretation, and application section will be primarily based on chapter one and chapter four verses two through six.

- How is the state of Israel described by Isaiah?
- What commands are given to the Israelites in response to their current state?
- What does Isaiah say that God wants to do to change Israel?

INTERPRETATION *WHAT DOES THE TEXT MEAN?*

DISCUSS:

- In verses 1:13-17, how did Israel divorce these worship practices from their original purposes?
- In verse 1:21, God describes Israel as a “faithful city that has become a whore”, why does Isaiah use such shocking language here? What does this tell us about the way God views sin?
- What does it say about God’s character that he still wants to make Israel “the city of righteousness, the faithful city.” despite the failures of Israel?
- In verse 4:2 it talks about the “Branch of the Lord”, what do you think that is? What does the Branch of the Lord do?

APPLICATION *WHAT DO WE DO NEXT?*

DISCUSS:

- Do you ever use such sobering language like we find in Isaiah to describe your own sin? Why or why not?
- Read John 15:1-5. What do you think the “Branch of the Lord” is now? Jesus will take on the punishment that not only Israel deserves because of their rebellion, but the whole world. How does this embolden you to be more honest about your sin?

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

As a group leader studying the book of Isaiah could feel daunting and intimidating. Please know that as your staff we are ready and available to help you in any way possible. Two resources that will be helpful are the Bible Project and the Gospel Coalitions course on Isaiah. Links to each of them are below and use them as you see fit.

[Bible Project resources on the Book of Isaiah](#)

[The Gospel Coalitions course on the Book of Isaiah](#)

PRAYER

Praise God that he had a plan in Christ to make us a “City of Righteousness, the Faithful City” despite our sin. Pray that you would be more willing to be honest about the depth of your sin before the Lord.