

Isaiah

| SEASON 2

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 28:1-22 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

- How long is the longest continuous period of time you have ever stayed awake? Why?
 - You're given 24 hours and unlimited money to try to protect a large diamond. After 24 hours, someone else with unlimited money has 24 hours to try to either steal or destroy it. If the diamond survives unstolen and undamaged for those 24 hours, you get to keep it. How do you protect it?
 - 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?
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INTRODUCTION

This week we're picking back up our survey through the book of Isaiah in chapter 28. Chapter 28 marks the beginning of an intense condemnation of Israel and Judah, through the proclamation of six "woes" (28:1, 29:1, 29:15, 30:1, 31:1, 33:1) that detail exactly how rebellious and unfaithful the nation had become. Throughout each of these proclamations, God describes what the people could have had by following him.

Unfortunately, by this point Israel and Judah are past the point of no return, and instead Isaiah proclaims their judgment and coming captivity. Shortly after, in chapter 39, the prophecies come to pass and Judah falls to the Babylonians.

Yet even in the midst of these most intense proclamations of judgment, God promises recovery. Throughout the "woes" are descriptions of a future day where God will relent from His judgment, and to once again be the glory of His people by providing a cornerstone, a foundation for their faith that cannot be moved.

OBSERVATIONS *WHAT DOES THE TEXT SAY?*

READ: Isaiah 28:1-22

DISCUSS:

- Who is Isaiah speaking to in this passage?
- According to this passage, what did those people do wrong?
- How does Isaiah describe the coming judgment from God?
- What positive things are described as coming with God's response?

INTERPRETATION *WHAT DOES THE TEXT MEAN?*

DISCUSS:

- Why do the particular wrongdoings of Israel's leaders mentioned in this passage provoke God's anger?
- Compare/contrast the results in the passage of Israel's leadership vs. the promised coming leadership of God and His cornerstone.
- **(only if time)** Read the rest of chapter 28 (vv. 23-29). Isaiah uses a few different farming metaphors to describe the coming destruction mentioned in verse 22. He conveys that judgment is in service of growth (vv. 24-25), has an appropriate level of severity (v. 27), and is not forever, only for its appointed time (v. 28). What does this part of the passage show us about God's character, and about His plan for His people?

APPLICATION *WHAT DO WE DO NEXT?*

DISCUSS:

- **Rest:** Where in your life do you feel like you don't have rest, or feel like you're in haste? What does it look like to follow God's direction to rest?
- **Self-reliance:** Are there places in your life where you are trusting in your own ability to make peace with others around you, or with situations you find yourself in? What is your foundation?
- **Leadership:** The proclamation in this chapter is mostly against the leaders of Israel, who have not led their people properly into rest and into faith in God. Do you find yourself in any leadership positions in your life, formal or informal? What has God called you to lead your people in?

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 Jesus who is our rest and foundation. Pray that you would take practical steps towards finding rest, being less self reliant, or growing into the leader God has called you to be this week.