



Isaiah

| SEASON 1



Group Discussion Guide

Week 3

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 7-11 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

Take sometime to break the ice and choose one of the questions below.

- What is an odd pairing (of flavors, scents, etc.) that you enjoy even though it seems like the two shouldn't go together?
- Share about a time when you tried to solve a particular problem on your own, but made it worse than it was before.
- 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

This week we continue our survey of the book of Isaiah with the story of King Ahaz, king of Judah. Ahaz is the grandson of King Uzziah (the king whose death was marked at the beginning of Isaiah 6) and the son of King Jotham, both kings who "did what was right in the eyes of the LORD" (2 Kings 15:1-3, 32-34). But instead of following in their footsteps, Ahaz has gone the opposite route, becoming so steeped in idolatry that he sacrificed his own son to other gods (2 Kings 16:1-4).

INTRODUCTION

Meanwhile for the northern kingdom of Israel, the prophesied threat of Assyrian takeover (see Hosea 9, among others) is looming closer than ever before. The king of Assyria, Tiglath-Pileser III, has conquered several of the surrounding nations, forcing them to pay tribute or risk further destruction. Pekah, king of Israel, has joined forces with Rezin, king of Syria, to attempt to fight the imminent threat. Together they try to pressure Judah to join, and when King Ahaz refuses, they threaten to invade the capital city of Jerusalem and depose him in favor of a puppet king that would be sympathetic to their cause.

INTRODUCTION

In the midst of all of this, Isaiah comes to speak to Ahaz in chapter 7. Despite everything Ahaz has done, God offers Ahaz deliverance from the threats of the kings of Israel and Syria, if Ahaz would only trust Him. Instead, Ahaz will offer tribute to Assyria to have them come and aid in his fight (2 Kings 16:5-9).

Worse, he sacrificed to the false gods of Syria to entreat their help, instead of relying on the One True God (2 Chronicles 28:16-27).

The anger of the Lord is kindled against Ahaz, and against all of the countries involved in this conflict. Isaiah prophesies a destruction coming quickly, first of Syria and Israel, then Assyria, and then even Judah. And yet, Isaiah also speaks of a remnant, a "stump", and of a coming Child from that remnant who will one day restore the people of God and rule over them.

OBSERVATIONS

READ

Isaiah 7:1-14

DISCUSS

- How does this passage describe Ahaz's reaction to the news of war?
- How does this passage describe God's reaction to the news of war?
- Who initiates the conversation between God and Ahaz?
- According to the passage, how does Ahaz respond?

OBSERVATIONS

READ

Isaiah 9:1-7, 11:1-10

DISCUSS

- Compare/contrast the image of a kingdom under this “Wonderful Counselor” to the kingdom that King Ahaz ruled over. (You may have to go back and read the parts of Isaiah that we just skipped)
- According to 9:1 and 11:9, who is this kingdom for?

INTERPRETATION

DISCUSS

- Why does God step in and intervene at all in this conflict?
- (Trace back to His promise to King David, heir always on the throne. It's specifically about the throne. Especially once we get to the Messianic passages.)
- Why do you think Ahaz doesn't want a sign? Why does God get mad at this?
- The passages in chapters 9 and 11 are surrounded by prophecies of destruction, creating a particularly stark contrast that continues throughout the book of Isaiah. Why are these passages included here? What can we learn about God from this contrast?

APPLICATION

DISCUSS

- Ahaz: Where do you find yourself acting like Ahaz, attempting to solve problems on your own instead of trusting God? Have there been times where this has led you to go against things that God has explicitly told you?
- Wonderful Counselor: We know today that the passages from chapters 9 and 11 are messianic, prophecy concerning the coming savior that we know as Jesus. How do these passages shape our view of Jesus? What does that mean for us today?

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 wonderful counselor and who scripture shapes reveals more of who he is. Pray that you would become less like Ahaz and more like someone trust Christ in every situation.

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