ABBOTSFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

BAD NEWS

Hope for the Hopeless

GOOD NEWS

GROWTH GROUP BOOKLET

Introduction to Isaiah ...

About

Like Elijah, Jeremiah, and the other Prophets, Isaiah was called by God to deliver His messages to Israel for its welfare in the Book of Isaiah. But along with warnings against Israel's sin and rebellious ways came a message of hope in a new depth that would carry on for centuries after Isaiah's passing. This hope would be embodied through God's Servant known as "Immanuel," who will one day establish a new Israel and God's Kingdom on the earth.

Remarkably, Jesus does precisely that in His lifetime, fulfilling over 300 prophecies in Scripture that include intricate details of His death and resurrection foretold in Isaiah chapters 50 through 53. Throughout the test of time, Isaiah's words have encouraged thousands of people who have suffered the drudgeries in this life while waiting for the Messiah to come in His first and second appearances everyone is counting on.

Spend the first 2 weeks exploring the overview and historical context of the Book of Isaiah, making use of the following resources.

Resources

Watch Video Introduction to the Book of Isaiah

www.thebibleproject.com/explore/isaiah

1: Chapter 1-39,

2: Chapter 40-66

Watch Video about Exile

www.thebibleproject.com/explore/exile

The story of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection is the absolute center of our practice, belief, and worldview. But these events didn't occur in a vacuum. Jesus fulfilled a larger storyline that was told throughout the Old Testament. The exile of the Israelites to Babylon is one of the most

important events in the entire Bible, and also changed Jewish history forever. The theme of exile and return from exile runs right through the entire biblical story from the Garden all the way to Revelation.

Historical Context

King Ahaz - Read 2 Kings 16

King Hezekiah - Read 2 Kings 18-20

Textual Observations

Read through Isaiah 1-5 together as a group. Share and discuss your observations and questions.

Praying for ourselves and others, seeking God's plan, God's kingdom, God's glory …

- Our next minister
- Our APC Church family and Growth Groups
-
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-

Misplaced Trust ... Isaiah 1-5

Reading: Isaiah 1

1/ As you listened to the sermon and/or heard this passage read, what questions came to mind?

Isaiah 5:25 says "… the Lord's anger burns against his people..."

2/ Are there times when you feel God is angry with you?

3/ How would you answer someone who says 'they won't believe in an angry God'?

PERSONAL CHALLENGE:

As a result of your reading, listening and discussion (in a sentence) …

What are you encouraged to do / choosing to do this week?

PRAYING FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS, SEEKING GOD'S PLAN, GOD'S KINGDOM, GOD'S GLORY …

- ⇢ Our next minister
- ⇢ SRE ministry at Russell Lea and Abbotsford Public schools
- ⇢
- ⇢
- ⇢
- ⇢
- ⇢
- ⇢
- ⇢

Call And Commission ... Isaiah 6

1/ How did you go with last week's PERSONAL CHALLENGE?

Reading: Isaiah 6

2/ As you listened to the sermon and/or heard this passage read, what questions came to mind?

3/ Have you ever sensed that God was "calling" you to do something specific?

4/ What have you been "called" by God to do on a daily basis?

PERSONAL CHALLENGE:

As a result of your reading, listening and discussion (in a sentence) …

What are you encouraged to do / choosing to do this week?

PRAYING FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS, SEEKING GOD'S PLAN, GOD'S KINGDOM, GOD'S GLORY …

- ⇢ Our next minister
- ⇢ Mainly Music ministry & APC Kids' Church
- ⇢
- ⇢
- ⇢
- ⇢
- ⇢
- ⇢
- ⇢

Disaster and promise ... Isaiah 7-12

1/ How did you go with last week's PERSONAL CHALLENGE?

Reading: Isaiah 8:11 - 9:7

2/ As you listened to the sermon and/or heard this passage read, what questions came to mind?

3/ When have you felt most restless, and most at peace?

4/ What helps you to find peace?

PERSONAL CHALLENGE:

As a result of your reading, listening and discussion (in a sentence) …

What are you encouraged to do / choosing to do this week?

PRAYING FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS, SEEKING GOD'S PLAN, GOD'S KINGDOM, GOD'S GLORY …

- ⇢ Our next minister
- ⇢ APC Session & Committee of Management
- ⇢
- ⇢
- ⇢
- ⇢
- ⇢
- ⇢
- ⇢

Here Is Your God! ... Isaiah 40

1/ How did you go with last week's PERSONAL CHALLENGE?

Reading: Isaiah 40

2/ As you listened to the sermon and/or heard this passage read, what questions came to mind?

3/ List and discuss ALL the ways God is described here in Isaiah 40.

PERSONAL CHALLENGE:

As a result of your reading, listening and discussion (in a sentence) …

What are you encouraged to do / choosing to do this week?

PRAYING FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS, SEEKING GOD'S PLAN, GOD'S KINGDOM, GOD'S GLORY …

- ⇢ Our next minister
- ⇢ APC Music Ministry
- ⇢
- ⇢
- ⇢
- ⇢
- ⇢
- ⇢
- ⇢

Good News For Everyone ... Isaiah 42/49

1/ How did you go with last week's PERSONAL CHALLENGE?

Reading: Isaiah 49:1-13

2/ As you listened to the sermon and/or heard this passage read, what questions came to mind?

3/ Who have you served today and how?

4/ Who will you serve tomorrow?

PERSONAL CHALLENGE:

As a result of your reading, listening and discussion (in a sentence) …

What are you encouraged to do / choosing to do this week?

PRAYING FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS, SEEKING GOD'S PLAN, GOD'S KINGDOM, GOD'S GLORY …

- ⇢ Our next minister
- ⇢ APC Meals Ministry and Church Service ministries
- ⇢
- ⇢
- ⇢
- ⇢
- ⇢
- ⇢
- ⇢

MISSION ... SALVATION TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH

1/ How did you go with last week's PERSONAL CHALLENGE?

Reading: Isaiah 49:6, 50:4-6, 52:7

2/ As you listened to the talk on Sunday and/or heard this sample of passages read, what struck you or what questions came to mind?

3/ Share stories of Missionaries that you know, about their work and their context and the people they are serving.

4/ Pray for these Missionaries and God's work amongst those who do not yet know him as their Lord and Saviour.

PERSONAL CHALLENGE:

5/ As a group, spend some time writing letters to the Missionaries we support and/or others you know, to encourage them in the faith and the glorious work they are engaged in.

6/ Discuss other ways that as a Growth Group you can support these workers in God's kingdom.

PRAYING FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS, SEEKING GOD'S PLAN, GOD'S KINGDOM, GOD'S GLORY …

- Our next minister
- Hawleys serving in Sydney
- Gunnings serving in Adelaide
-
-
-
-
-
-

Salvation Accomplished ... Isaiah 52:13-53

1/ How did you go with last week's PERSONAL CHALLENGE?

Reading: Isaiah 52:13-53:12

2/ As you listened to the sermon and/or heard this passage read, what questions came to mind?

3/ Reflect on and talk about the depth of the humility and suffering of the Servant.

PERSONAL CHALLENGE:

As a result of your reading, listening and discussion (in a sentence) …

What are you encouraged to do / choosing to do this week?

PRAYING FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS, SEEKING GOD'S PLAN, GOD'S KINGDOM, GOD'S GLORY …

- ⇢ Our next minister
- ⇢ Y Central Youth Group
- ⇢
- ⇢
- ⇢
- ⇢
- ⇢
- ⇢
- ⇢

ETERNAL CERTAINTIES ... ISAIAH 55

1/ How did you go with last week's PERSONAL CHALLENGE?

Reading: Isaiah 55

2/ As you listened to the sermon and/or heard this passage read, what questions came to mind?

3/ What are the events (etc) that have shaken your faith or made you question God's goodness?

4/ How have you responded?

PERSONAL CHALLENGE:

As a result of your reading, listening and discussion (in a sentence) …

What are you encouraged to do / choosing to do this week?

PRAYING FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS, SEEKING GOD'S PLAN, GOD'S KINGDOM, GOD'S GLORY …

- ⇢ Our next minister
- ⇢ K Central ministry
- ⇢
- ⇢
- ⇢
- ⇢
- ⇢
- ⇢
- ⇢

ISAIAH

Hope for the Hopeless

5TH -12TH AUG	MISPLACED TRUST	ISA 1-5
19TH AUG	CALL AND COMMISSION	ISA 6
26TH AUG	DISASTER AND PROMISE	ISA 7-12
2ND SEP	HERE IS YOUR GOD!	ISA 40
9TH SEP	GOOD NEWS FOR ALL	ISA 42: 49
16TH SEP	MISSION SUNDAY	-
23RD SEP	SALVATION ACCOMPLISHED	ISA 52:13-53
30TH SEP	ETERNAL CERTAINTIES	ISA 55

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