

SUNDAY SCHOOL | Isaiah

Discussion Guide

Isaiah wanted his readers to learn two important messages: First, there is a cost to disobedience and rebellion. God is just, and sin cannot be ignored. But God's justice is for our purification and correction, not for our destruction. And thus the second message is that no matter who you are, what your circumstances are, or what you've done, there is hope for you because of Jesus. There is hope for not only your eternal future, but also for your life today. He will not waste the mess and brokenness in your story, and He will redeem all things - even the most painful things. His willingness to use you is not about your talent or your training, but your readiness to respond and your humility to let Him lead your steps.

WEEKLY PRACTICE

Reflect on these two questions. Is there a "no" toward God in my life? Am I available?

Discussion Questions

1. How does it change your perspective to know that God will not let the painful or broken pieces of your story go to waste?
2. Why should it be a comfort to us that God is just?
3. When you feel hopeless, what can you do to rest in the hope found in Jesus?
4. Is there anything you are waiting for God to redeem?
5. What does a life marked by willingness to serve God look like?
6. What is God leading you to do with what you've just heard?

Sermon Notes

Isaiah 26:3 "You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you."

Isaiah 26:8 "Yes, Lord, walking in the way of your truth, we wait for you; your name and renown are the desire of our souls."

Isaiah 30:15 "In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength..."

Isaiah 40:29-31 "He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."

Isaiah 55:9 "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."

Isaiah 1:21-26 "See how the faithful city has become a prostitute! She once was full of justice; righteousness used to dwell in her—but now murderers! Your silver has become dross, your choice wine is diluted with water. Your rulers are rebels, partners with thieves; they all love bribes and chase after gifts. They do not defend the cause of the fatherless; the widow's case does not come before them. Therefore the Lord, the Lord Almighty, the Mighty One of Israel, declares: 'Ah! I will vent my wrath on my foes and avenge myself on my enemies. I will turn my hand against you; I will thoroughly purge away your dross and remove all your impurities. I will restore your leaders as in days of old, your rulers as at the beginning. Afterward you will be called the City of Righteousness, the Faithful City.'"

The Message of Isaiah

Rebellion comes at a cost.

Romans 6:23 “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Destruction will not have the last word.

Isaiah 41:10 “So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”

Isaiah 53:4-6 “But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.”

Isaiah 65:17, 20-25 “See, I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind. ‘Never again will there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or an old man who does not live out his years; the one who dies at a hundred will be thought a mere child; the one who fails to reach a hundred will be considered accursed. They will build houses and dwell in them; they will plant vineyards and eat their fruit. No longer will they build houses and others live in them, or plant and others eat. For as the days of a tree, so will be the days of my people; my chosen ones will long enjoy the work of their hands. They will not labor in vain, nor will they bear children doomed to misfortune; for they will be a people blessed by the Lord, they and their descendants with them. Before they call I will answer; while they are still speaking I will hear. The wolf and the lamb will feed together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox, and dust will be the serpent’s food. They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain,’ says the Lord.”

“All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well.” - Julian of Norwich

“Everything is going to be fine in the end. If it’s not fine, it’s not the end.” - Oscar Wilde

Isaiah 6:5-8 “‘Woe to me!’ I cried. ‘I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty.’ Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. With it he touched my mouth and said, ‘See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for.’ Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?’ And I said, ‘Here am I. Send me!’”

God isn’t looking for position and pedigree, he is looking for humility and availability.