

ISAIAH

A PATH FORWARD

Isaiah was written about seven centuries before Christ, warning the people of Israel that they were on a path leading to God's judgment. But judgment isn't the end of the story. There is also comfort in the promise that God will have compassion, and ultimately rescue His people through His Servant. Isaiah also offers us the opportunity to ask the questions: What path are WE on? What is the way forward?

Week One: DISSING GOD

Text: Isaiah 1-5

Do we respect or disrespect God? Do we talk at Him, but fail to listen to Him? Do we ignore His input on our important decisions? Do we disregard His boundaries, but expect Him to come through for us? Do we go through the motions of worship while hanging on to our sin?

Respecting God starts with having a relationship with Him and finding our identity in and through Him. It blossoms when we act in alignment with that identity and factor God into every part of our lives.

Discussion Questions: *The following are based on the "My Application" Questions found in the bulletin this week. Leader urge your group members to attend worship—or watch the sermon online—and to spend time considering and answering those questions before coming to the group. This will produce a richer discussion time.*

- Describe a time when someone disrespected you. What did you feel? Why?
- How does God feel when we are "worshipping" as we live in unconfessed sin? See Isaiah 1:10-17. Does God take our disrespect personally? Explain.

- As you read the six woes in Isaiah 5:8-23, what are some areas of your life that need to change? (Tim summarized those woes as: valuing things over people, valuing gratification over gratitude, clinging to our sin while expecting God to come through for us, praising evil and belittling good, assuming our plans are right without consulting God.)
- What does it look like to live a life that respects God? Be as specific as possible.

Prayer Time:

Pair and Pray—share with a partner what God is showing you in your life that doesn't reflect Who You Are in Christ. (This may not be a glaring "sin area" but just something you think God is nudging you about.) Pray for each other that God would show you the way forward...the next step in honoring God with your life as well as your words. Even if you aren't aware of anything right now, ask God to show you how He wants you to factor Him in to some part of your life.

Memory Verse:

*"Come now, let us reason together," says the LORD.
"Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow;
though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool.
If you are willing and obedient, you will eat the best from the land."
Isaiah 1:18-19*

Application:

Review from the "Made for Joy" series: Share with the group your experiences writing letters of gratitude and reading them to the recipients.

Practice at home this week: Give God five minutes at the beginning of your day, each day this week. Rather than telling Him what He can do for you, listen to Him.

- Ask Him to speak to you
- Thoughtfully, read a few verses from the Bible. (You might choose to read through Isaiah 1-5, about 25 verses each morning. Or, you could read the chapter of Proverbs that corresponds to the day of the month.)
- Sit quietly and listen. What is God saying to you?
- Write down your thoughts. No journal necessary, a sheet of paper that can mark your place until tomorrow will do.

Next week, share with your group what this experience was like for you.

One way to factor God into your life decisions is to make a commitment to serve in the Great Adventure this Summer. There is still time to sign up to host a Back-Yard Bible Club or drive a team of student leaders to their clubs.