

ISAIAH

THE LORD SAVES

CHECK-IN

Before you dig into the passage

Ask your group to share something new or challenging that they had not considered before. How have you responded to God's Word this past week? How have you responded to God's call to trust him? Have you faced any situations recently where you have had to decide whether to trust God or rely on your own understanding?

READ

Isaiah 7:18-8:22

As the text is central to the discussion, read the week's text together. Consider using a few different translations.

OBSERVE

Make text-based observations (What?)

Guide your group to make observations from the text. Focus on elements like words, grammar, structure, tone, literary devices, genre, etc.

1. What images does Isaiah use to describe God's judgement in 7:18-25?
2. What is the significance of Isaiah's son's name (8:1-4)?
3. How does Isaiah contrast fearing people/nations versus fearing God (8:11-15)?
4. Discuss what happens to those who reject God and seek wisdom elsewhere (8:19-22)?

5. Compare Isaiah 8:17 with Psalm 27:14 - What does it mean to wait on the Lord?
6. What is the contrast between the faithful and the unfaithful in this passage? (8:9-22) *read this section again, and discuss the features of the faithful listed*

INTERPRET

What does the passage mean (So what?)?

Based on the observations, what did the text mean to its original audience? What is God saying?

1. Why do you think Ahaz and the people of Judah struggled to trust God?
2. What does it mean that God can either be a 'sanctuary' or a 'stone of stumbling'? (8:14). What determines the difference?
3. What does it mean to fear God rather than man (vv 12-13)? Why is so countercultural today?
4. How do verses 16-17 demonstrate Isaiah's faith in contrast to the people's fear?
5. What does v.20 teach us about God's Word and how do we respond to alternative spiritual voices or cultural narratives?

APPLY

What should we do and why (Now what?)?

In light of the meaning of the text in its context, what principles apply to us today?

1. What ways are we tempted to trust in worldly solutions or conspiracies rather than God?
2. In what ways can fear drive us away from faith? How can we grow in fearing God rather than fearing circumstances?
3. What does it look like to "wait on the Lord" in challenging situations (8:17)?
4. How can we practically keep our trust in God when things seem dark or uncertain?
5. What would it look for you to honor God as holy this week?
6. How has your relationship with God's Word been like lately? Has it been your anchor or an afterthought?
7. What's one way you can "bind up the testimony" in your life this week? (e.g. memorize a verse, journal through a psalm)
8. How does Jesus - our Immanuel - fulfill this passage? See 1 Pet. 2:7-8; Heb. 2:13

PRAYER

Lead your group in a prayer in response to this passage. Spend time repenting of your own unbelief and declaring trust in Jesus.