

ISAIAH THE LORD SAVES

CHECK-IN

Before you dig into the passage

Before we begin studying chapter 11, ask the group to rate their current level of **optimism**, or **hope** for the future, on a scale of 0 - 10.

A rating of 10 would mean you are 100% confident of a completely positive future ahead, 0 would mean you expect the world (or world around you) to collapse any minute.

READ

Isaiah 11:1-9

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. Do you recall where we have seen the 'stump' metaphor before? How about the 'branch'? Go and read these passages again to re-familiarise yourself with the images.
2. Why do you think the name 'Jesse' is used, instead of the more obvious reference to David?
3. How does verse 1 relate to Isaiah 53:2?
4. Compare verse 2 with Isaiah 61:1-4, and then Luke 4:20-32
5. Where have we seen some of these Spiritual attributes of the Messiah before?
6. Read Isaiah 2:1-4 again, and highlight the similarities between this passage and ours for today.

7. The subject of God 'making things right' for the poor and downtrodden is also not new in Isaiah. Compare v4 with Isaiah 3:14-15, 10:1-2.
8. The subject of God as righteous judge is certainly also not new! Compare v4 & 5 with Isaiah 5:15-16 and 9:6.
9. Compare v6-8 with some of the Genesis passages indicating God's original intent with creation, like Genesis 1:28-30, 3:14-19.
10. Do you think v6-9 is to be taken literally or metaphorically? How does it correlate with Lord's prayer 'on earth as it is in heaven?' What is significance of 'earth' in v9?

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. How do you think these verses addressed the hopes of Judah at the time Isaiah is prophesying? What did this prophecy mean for them as they considered their political situation, and their likely future?
2. How do you think these verses address the hopes of all humanity for a perfect government and a perfect society today?
3. Why is it impossible for human governments (kings) to make good on their grand visions for a perfect society?
4. Why are Christ's promises different and better than theirs?
5. How are the attributes ascribed to Christ as King indispensable for a perfect King?
6. How does the vision of the future kingdom reverse the effects of the fall (also see question 9 above)?

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. How confident are you that these predictions of Christ's future reign will come true? On what basis can you be confident?
2. What is the value of 'undated hope' in the scriptures?
3. Consider again the list of Spirit-empowered characteristics of the Messiah in v2. Are these characteristics believers should seek today?
4. What inspiration do these verses give for earthly leaders (in whatever circle of society) today?

PRAYER

Lead your group in a prayer in response to this passage. Focus on praying for those whose 'eyes are fading' (Psalm 13:3, 31:9, 38:10 cf 1 Sam 14:27-29), ie for their answer in the 'Check-in' to improve!