

## **Isaiah 1:1-20 Discussion Guide**

### **Pray**

Apart from God, we can do nothing. Pray for the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion. Throughout your time together, continue asking God for help.

### **Read Scripture**

Read all of Isaiah 1, with special focus on 1:1-20.

### **Bible Study: The HEAR Method**

The bulk of your time will be spent discussing God's Word together. HEAR is an inductive Bible study method that looks closely at what the Bible says to discover what it means so that we can faithfully apply it to our lives.

**HEAR** stands for:

- **Highlight:** read and observe everything in the passage carefully.
- **Examine:** based on your observations, discover what the passage means in its context.
- **Apply:** determine how the meaning of the passage applies to your life.
- **Respond in prayer:** pray God's Word back to Him.

### **Remember:**

- Walk through the Bible study together using the HEAR method and talk about what stuck out most to you in the passage.
- Make sure you move discussion to the application section of your study.
- Affections, beliefs, and practices: Make sure to apply the passage to all your life.

### **Pray**

- Take time to pray for one another and ask for His grace to apply His Word to our daily lives.

**Open:** What do you know about the prophesy of Isaiah? What are you hoping to learn about this important Old Testament prophetic book?

### **Placing Isaiah in the Larger Story:**

“Isaiah stands at a turning point in the history of God's people when, after centuries of breaking their covenant relationship, God's judgment will fall upon them and, indeed, the whole world. Yet Isaiah proclaims the “good news” that God will bring his kingdom, renew all creation, and restore his people to himself. This redemption will be accomplished through a servant, who will suffer in the place of sinners that they might be forgiven and restored to God. Through his life, death, and resurrection, Jesus has begun to fulfill in a decisive way the promises of Isaiah. We await the day when Jesus returns to gather the redeemed to worship God in a new creation forever.” (ESV Study Guide)

**Study:** (take some time to review the “Overview of Isaiah” on our resources page)

- 1) Who is the author of this book? What does his name mean and why is this significant?
- 2) What do we know about the prophet Isaiah (his parents and the time period that he lived during)?
- 3) What was the political, economic and spiritual conditions that were prevailing in Judah at this time?

- 4) How should we define “vision” from vs. 1?
- 5) Whom does Isaiah command to hear (see vs. 1-2)? What’s the significance of this appeal?
- 6) How did God describe His people in 1:2-4? What does He compare them to? What was the result of Israel’s rebellion?
- 7) What’s the significance in God describing them as a “sick man” (see vs. 5-6)?
- 8) What are the consequences of the people’s sins (see vs. 7-8)? What’s the meaning of the illustration of the booth and the lodge?
- 9) To what cities does God compare them to (see vs. 9)? What happened to these cities (see Genesis 19:1-29)? What is the lesson God is seeking to drive home to His people through Isaiah?
- 10) How should we define “remnant”? In what sense was there a remnant among God’s people (see vs. 9 “a few survivors”)? Where is this passage quoted in the New Testament? What is it’s intended meaning?
- 11) What specifically did God criticize and why does He reject their worship practices (see vs. 10-17)? Why is the disposition of their hearts more important than our actual actions? What steps were they to take (see vs. 16-18)?

**Apply:**

- 12) In the midst of this declaration of impending judgment what hope does God offer to them (see vs. 18)? What was required of these people to receive this blessing (see vs. 19)? What made this hope ultimately futile for these people? What is God’s promise of vs. 18 not futile for us today?
- 13) What makes it possible for you today to “seek justice”, “cease to do evil”, to “learn to do good”? Is there a New Testament passage that captures this for you? How does this make the glory of the gospel of Jesus Christ even more glorious to you today?
- 14) What is God calling you to apply to your own life in terms of living an acceptable offering of worship to Him? What is He calling you to turn/repent from? What is He calling you to believe again? How can others help us?

**PRAY:**

- Take time thank God the He truly is the Lord who saves.
- Take time to thank God for patience and mercy for forbearing with us.
- Ask God for power to live in ways that glorify Him because of the new heart he has given us.
- Ask God for the Spirit to give us eyes to see any hypocrisy in our lives and grace to live in ways that are acceptable acts of worship.