



GOD OF THE
NATIONS

ISAIAH

ev/church

GOD OF THE NATIONS – ISAIAH

Week	Passage	Theme
1	Isaiah 1-6	Judah's situation and Isaiah's commission
2	Isaiah 7-12	Whom shall we trust? The nations!
3	Isaiah 13-23	The LORD's judgement on the nations
4	Isaiah 24-27	The LORD's triumph over the nations
5	Isaiah 28-35	The results of trusting the LORD or the nations
6	Isaiah 36-39	Whom shall we trust? The LORD!
7	Isaiah 40-48	The motive for servanthood: Grace
8	Isaiah 49-55	The means of servanthood: Atonement
9	Isaiah 56-59	The marks of servanthood 1: Human inability
10	Isaiah 60-66	The marks of servanthood 2: Divine ability

We want to encourage each other to be on mission to our non-Christian friends, family and contacts.

Who are you on mission to?

Make a list and start praying for them (and yourself).

Pray for three friends, once a week, for one minute (3-1-1).

List the names of your family and friends here:

TERM 3 – 2019

How to use this book:

1. PERSONAL READING

- Use this guide to help you read your Bible every day.
- Scribble down your thoughts and questions each day, and remember to pray and ask God to speak to you by His Spirit, through His word.

2. GROWTH GROUPS

- Take this guide with you to your Growth Group each week so you can write down prayer points that come from the study that week and prayer requests from the members of your group.
- Let your group know who you are on mission to.

3. CHURCH

- Keep this guide with your Bible and bring it with you to church.
- Scribble down sermon notes in the space provided.

SIGN UP FOR THESE NOTES AS A DAILY EMAIL AT:
www.evchurch.info/series

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INTRODUCTION: ISAIAH

The book of Isaiah is more than just big; Isaiah is the most theologically rich book in the Old Testament. Modern believers are often too quick to think that because we have the New Testament, there's nothing left for the Old Testament to tell us about God, or ourselves, or Heaven and Hell. Based on how regularly the New Testament references Isaiah, the New Testament authors thought very differently. No Old Testament prophet is quoted as much in the New Testament as Isaiah, and that's no surprise. The book of Isaiah is unmatched for its depth of theology, its clarity about the problems that we face, and its staggering perspective on the end of this world and the beginning of a New Heavens and a New Earth.

There are five key themes in Isaiah

1. **God:** God is depicted in Isaiah as the one who is "high and lifted up" (6:1); the ruler who transcends all else. More than any other title, Isaiah calls God, "The Holy One of Israel". God is completely different to His creatures, but at the same time committed to them and their good. That rule and loving commitment extends beyond the nation of Israel, so that He is rightly called "God of the nations".
2. **Humanity and the World:** The constant thing that Isaiah has to say about the humans who make up the nations, and the nations that make up the world, is that we're so completely small and temporary and irrelevant when considered next to God. It is staggering that God would commit Himself to us, for our good.
3. **Sin:** In Isaiah's eyes, not only are we insignificant, we're evil. Sin is depicted in Isaiah as rebellion (see how the book starts and ends: 1:2, 66:24). This rebellion is an expression of human pride (which makes no sense given what Isaiah says about humanity's insignificance).
4. **Judgement:** God will respond to human sin. Whether by natural disaster, military defeat, or disease – all are from the hand of God. The God Isaiah writes about is no mere observer.
5. **Redemption:** God is not only a judge. Redemption is offered throughout Isaiah to anyone who would turn away from their rebellious sin and human pride, and turn to trust in the holy, transcendent, perfect and merciful God of the nations. In fact, God will take the initiative to make things right between Himself and His people.

There is no doubt that when Jesus was on Earth, He understood Himself as continuing and completing the ministry of Isaiah. So, to miss out on Isaiah, is to deprive ourselves of great riches in understanding Jesus the Messiah, the LORD's Anointed. And to dive deeply into this "Romans of the Old Testament" is to see deep things about God, Humanity, the World, Sin, Judgement and Redemption that will enrich your enjoyment of God many times over.

"The LORD will lay bare his holy arm in the sight of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth will see the salvation of our God." Isaiah 52:10

Book recommendation: *Enjoying God* by Tim Chester



What is your relationship like with the Father? How about the Son? How about the Holy Spirit? Would you say that you enjoy God?

Spending a term in Isaiah will push us to think deeply about God, yet there is much more to say about God than what can be said in one single book of the Bible.

In Tim Chester's, *Enjoying God*, we have a beautifully written account of how we can enjoy our relationship with God in day-to-day life.

The more we understand our relationship with the Father, and the Son and the Spirit, the more we'll interact with God, grow in our love for Him, and view life in an entirely different way.

Read through *Enjoying God* while you're working through Isaiah, and enjoy the blessing of the whole Bible's teaching on how to "experience the power and love of God in everyday life".

READ THE BIBLE IN TWO YEARS

Something you might like to use to extend your daily Bible reading.

The Bible is truly an extraordinary book, unique among all other books. It consists of 66 individual books, written by 40 different authors, in three different languages across 1,500 years of history. Yet for all of this diversity it contains a unified message that focuses on the coming of Jesus and the amazing salvation He offers through His death and resurrection!

The Bible contains words written by men in all the richness of literary types making it fun, challenging and enjoyable to dig into. Yet, at the same time, the Bible is also the very words of God given to us by His Spirit (1 Peter 1:21; 2 Timothy 3:16-17). These are not just words spoken in times past, but words that are alive for us to read today (Hebrews 4:12-13). The God of the universe actually addresses us today clearly in the pages of the Bible – amazing!

Jesus says the entire Bible points us to Him, that He is the focal point of it all. Listen to what He says, “He said to them, “This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.” (Luke 24:44). Or, again Jesus says, “You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life.” (John 5:39-40).

Knowing this is helpful in motivating us to read the Bible regularly, to keep building a bigger understanding of God’s purposes and how they are being fulfilled in Jesus. To help with this, the Daily Reading Notes now include an extra challenge: to read the whole Bible in two years. It’s totally optional, are you up for it?

There is a list of around 15 chapters of additional reading for each week of the term that will help you achieve this challenge. These readings can be done on whatever days work best and in whatever order you prefer to read them. At the end of each term you have a chance to catch up before the next term’s suggested readings begin again. You can also track your readings across the two years right here. Enjoy!

YEAR 1: TERM 1

Week 1	Genesis 1-5; Psalms 1-4; Genesis 5-10; Matthew 1-2	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 2	Genesis 11-15; Psalms 5-7; Genesis 16-20; Matthew 3-4	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 3	Genesis 21-25; Psalms 8-10; Genesis 26-30; Matthew 5-6	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 4	Genesis 31-35; Psalms 11-16; Genesis 36-40; Matthew 7-9	<input type="checkbox"/>

Week 5	Genesis 41-45; Psalms 17-19; Genesis 46-50; Matthew 10-11	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 6	Exodus 1-5; Psalms 20-24; Exodus 6-10; Matthew 12-13	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 7	Exodus 11-15, Psalms 25-27; Exodus 16-20; Matthew 14-15	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 8	Exodus 21-25; Psalms 28-31; Exodus 26-30; Matthew 16-17	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 9	Exodus 31-35; Psalms 32-34; Exodus 36-40; Matthew 18-19	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 10	Leviticus 1-5; Psalms 35-37; Leviticus 6-10; Matthew 20-21	<input type="checkbox"/>

YEAR 1: TERM 2

Week 1	Leviticus 11-15; Psalms 38-41; Leviticus 16-20; Matthew 22-24	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 2	Leviticus 21-27; Numbers 1-3; Proverbs 1-3; Matthew 25-26	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 3	Numbers 4-13; Proverbs 4-6; Matthew 27-28	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 4	Numbers 14-23; Proverbs 7-9; Acts 1-2	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 5	Numbers 24-33; Psalms 42-44; Acts 3-4	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 6	Numbers 34-36; Psalms 45-48; Acts 5-6	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 7	Deuteronomy 1-7; Psalms 49-51; Acts 7-8	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 8	Deuteronomy 8-17; Psalms 52-54; Acts 9-10	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 9	Deuteronomy 18-27; Psalms 55-57; Acts 11-12	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 10	Deuteronomy 28-34; Joshua 1-3; Psalms 58-61; Acts 13-14	<input type="checkbox"/>

YEAR 1: TERM 3

Week 1	Joshua 4-13; Psalms 62-65; Acts 15-16	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 2	Joshua 14-23; Psalms 66-68; Acts 17-18	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 3	Joshua 24; Judges 1-9; Psalms 69-71; Acts 19-20	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 4	Judges 10-19; Psalms 72; Proverbs 10-11; Acts 21-22	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 5	Judges 20-21; Ruth 1-4; 1 Samuel 1-4; Proverbs 12-14; Acts 23-24	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 6	1 Samuel 5-14; Proverbs 15-17; Acts 25-26	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 7	1 Samuel 15-24; Proverbs 18-20; Acts 27-28	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 8	1 Samuel 25-31; 2 Samuel 1-3; Proverbs 21-22; Mark 1-2	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 9	2 Samuel 4-13; Psalms 73-75; Mark 3-4	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 10	2 Samuel 14-24; Psalms 76-77; Mark 5-6	<input type="checkbox"/>

READ THE BIBLE IN TWO YEARS

YEAR 1: TERM 4

- Week 1 1 Kings 1-5; Psalms 78-80; 1 Kings 6-10; Mark 7-8
- Week 2 1 Kings 11-15; Psalms 81-83; 1 Kings 16-20; Mark 9-10
- Week 3 1 Kings 21-22; 2 Kings 1-8; Psalms 84-86; Mark 11-12
- Week 4 2 Kings 9-13; Psalms 87-89; 2 Kings 14-18; Mark 13-14
- Week 5 2 Kings 19-25; 1 Chronicles 1-3; Psalms 90-93; Mark 15-16
- Week 6 1 Chronicles 4-8; Psalms 94-96; 1 Chronicles 9-13; Romans 1-2
- Week 7 1 Chronicles 14-18; Psalms 97-101; 1 Chronicles 19-23; Romans 3-4
- Week 8 1 Chronicles 24-29; Psalms 102-104; Romans 5-6
- Week 9 2 Chronicles 1-5; Psalms 105-106; 2 Chronicles 6-10; Romans 7-8
- Week 10 2 Chronicles 11-15; Proverbs 23-25; 2 Chronicles 16-20; Romans 9-10

YEAR 2: TERM 1

- Week 1 2 Chronicles 21-25; Proverbs 26-28; 2 Chronicles 26-30; Romans 11-12
- Week 2 2 Chronicles 31-36; Ezra 1-4; Proverbs 29-31; Romans 13-14
- Week 3 Ezra 5-10; Nehemiah 1-4; Psalms 107-109; Romans 15-16
- Week 4 Nehemiah 5-13; Psalms 110-113; 1 Corinthians 1-2
- Week 5 Esther 1-10; Psalms 114-117; 1 Corinthians 3-4
- Week 6 Job 1-5; Psalms 118; Job 6-10; 1 Corinthians 5-6
- Week 7 Job 11-15; Psalms 119:1-48; Job 16-20; 1 Corinthians 7-8
- Week 8 Job 21-25; Psalms 119:49-96; Job 26-30; 1 Corinthians 9-10
- Week 9 Job 31-35; Psalms 119:97-144; Job 36-40; 1 Corinthians 11-12
- Week 10 Job 41-42; Ecclesiastes 1-8; Psalms 119:145-176; 1 Corinthians 13-14

YEAR 2: TERM 2

- Week 1 Ecclesiastes 9-12; Song of Songs 1-5; Psalms 120-122; 1 Cor 15-16
- Week 2 Songs of Songs 6-8; Isaiah 1-7; Psalms 123-125; Luke 1-2
- Week 3 Isaiah 8-12; Psalms 126-130; Isaiah 13-17; Luke 3-4
- Week 4 Isaiah 18-22; Psalms 131-135; Isaiah 23-27; Luke 5-6
- Week 5 Isaiah 28-32; Psalms 136-138; Isaiah 33-37; Luke 7-8

- Week 6 Isaiah 38-42; Psalms 139-142; Isaiah 43-47; Luke 9-10
- Week 7 Isaiah 48-52; Psalms 143-145; Isaiah 53-57; Luke 11-12
- Week 8 Isaiah 58-62; Psalms 146-147; Isaiah 63-66; Luke 13-14
- Week 9 Jeremiah 1-5; Psalms 148-150; Jeremiah 6-10; Luke 15-16
- Week 10 Jeremiah 11-15; Luke 17-21; Jeremiah 16-20

YEAR 2: TERM 3

- Week 1 Jeremiah 21-25; Luke 21-24; Jeremiah 26-30; 2 Corinthians 1
- Week 2 Jeremiah 31-35; 2 Corinthians 2-7; Jeremiah 36-40
- Week 3 Jeremiah 41-45; 2 Corinthians 8-13; Jeremiah 46-50
- Week 4 Jeremiah 51-52; Lamentations 1-5; Galatians 1-6
- Week 5 Ezekiel 1-5; Ephesians 1-6; Ezekiel 6-10
- Week 6 Ezekiel 11-15; Philippians 1-4; Ezekiel 16-20
- Week 7 Ezekiel 21-25; Colossians 1-4; Ezekiel 26-30
- Week 8 Ezekiel 31-35; 1 Thessalonians 1-5; Ezekiel 36-40; 2 Thessalonians 1-3
- Week 9 Ezekiel 41-48; 1 Timothy 1-6; 2 Timothy 1-4
- Week 10 Daniel 1-10; Titus 1-3, Philemon

YEAR 2: TERM 4

- Week 1 Daniel 11-12; Hosea 1-8; Hebrews 1-7
- Week 2 Hosea 9-14; Joel 1-3; Hebrews 8-13
- Week 3 Amos 1-9; James 1-5; 1 Peter 1-5
- Week 4 Obadiah; Jonah 1-4; 2 Peter 1-3; 1 John 1-6; 2 John; 3 John
- Week 5 Micah 1-7; Nahum 1-3; Jude; Revelation 1-5
- Week 6 Habakkuk 1-3; Revelation 6-19:10
- Week 7 Zephaniah 1-3; Revelation 19:11-22:21
- Week 8 Haggai 1-2; John 1-12
- Week 9 Zechariah 1-14; John 13-17
- Week 10 Malachi 1-4; John 18-21

WEEK 1: ISAIAH 1-6

The book of Isaiah begins by assessing the nation of Judah's situation. The kings listed in Isaiah 1:1 have contributed significantly to the situation, but in different ways. Verse 2 begins an extended monologue which extends until the end of chapter one. The LORD is speaking through His prophet to His people.

DAY 1: Judah's situation

Read Isaiah 1

1. What does this chapter say about Judah's situation?
2. Given Judah's situation, where are there surprising notes of hope in the chapter?
3. Sin is described several times as rebellion (1:2, 5, 20, 23, 28). What should we conclude about our Father from the way that He treats rebels in this chapter?

Prayer: Pray in a way that reflects what you've seen about your Father's character in Isaiah 1.

Judah's Situation and Isaiah's Commission

BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

Joshua 4-13; Psalms 62-65; Acts 15-16

In chapter 1, Isaiah described Judah's current situation negatively but hopefully. In chapters 2-4, we start to see a picture of the way forward for the LORD's people: The LORD Himself will do it.

DAY 2: Judah's destiny

Read Isaiah 2-4

1. There seem to be three main sections here: 2:2-4; 2:6-4:1 and 4:2-6. Try and summarise each section with a single word.
2. What different effect does the imagery have in each of the three sections?
3. "The branch of the LORD" in 4:2 may be referring to the Messiah as it does in Isaiah 11:1-5 (and Jeremiah 23:5; 33:15; and Zechariah 3:8; 6:12). If it is, then "the fruit of the land" in 4:2 would seem to come from the LORD's branch: Messiah. Therefore, the LORD is the one who will provide:
 - a. the pride and glory of the survivors (verse 2);
 - b. the sanctification and cleansing of Jerusalem (verses 3-4); and
 - c. the return of the LORD's glory in protective cloud and fire (verses 5-6).

We still depend on the LORD today to sanctify and glorify us. Jesus asks the LORD to do exactly these things in His prayer in John 17, especially in verses 15-22. How could our dependence upon the LORD to transform us shape our daily prayers?

Prayer: As you've read the Bible today, and throughout your life, what are a small number of things that you think your Father wants to change in you? Ask your Father to change you in those areas and ways.

WEEK 1: ISAIAH 1-6

Isaiah 2-4 spoke of the hope for Judah in the future, but that hope doesn't mean they can hide from their current problems. Judah still needs to face the facts of their current situation, which chapter 5 spells out very clearly.

DAY 3: The vineyard of the LORD Almighty

Read Isaiah 5

1. The story of the vineyard in verses 1-7 sets up the whole chapter. In the middle of the story, the LORD asks Judah to think about this for themselves (verses 3-4). What do you think the LORD should have done about the situation with His vineyard?
2. The bulk of the chapter focuses on the literal meaning of the “bad fruit” that Judah produced (verses 8-24). What were some of the problems in Judah?
3. Verse 25 describes the punishment that Judah has already received, but it won't stop there, “His anger is not turned away”.
 - a. How does the rest of the chapter (verses 26-30) explain what will happen to Judah?
 - b. How would the elements of hope in Isaiah 2-4 clarify what type of punishment is being described in 5:26-30?

Prayer: The LORD's kindness to Judah in 5:1-2 made their rebellion against Him so much more horrific. Thank your Father for His kindness to you, particularly His care for our spiritual wellbeing. Ask and thank your Father for His forgiveness for any way that you've spurned His kindness. Ask for help in the future, to respond to His kindness with good fruit: justice and righteousness.

Judah's Situation and Isaiah's Commission

Isaiah 1-5 describe the general problems of the nation, and the path of judgement and sanctification to glorify them and bring them back under His protection. In chapter 6, Isaiah has a vision of the One whom the nation has rebelled against.

DAY 4: Isaiah's vision of the LORD

Read Isaiah 6:1-7

1. Each of the first 5 verses work together to paint a certain picture of the LORD. How do each of those 5 verses add to the picture, and what picture do they leave Isaiah with?
2. If all you knew about the LORD was those first 5 verses, what would you expect to happen to Isaiah?
3. How different are verses 6-7 than what you might have expected from the first 5 verses?

Prayer: The LORD hasn't changed. He is still holy, a consuming fire (Hebrews 12:29), and He has made atonement for our sins (Romans 3:25-26). Pray that your vision of the LORD would be as vivid as Isaiah's, and pray the same for other people. We all need to recognise our ruin before the LORD, and to turn to Him alone to deal with our sin.

WEEK 1: ISAIAH 1-6

After Isaiah's guilt had been taken away and His sin atoned for (6:7), the LORD finally spoke. Isaiah was commissioned with a confronting ministry: A ministry of hardening and judgement, yet a ministry with the purpose of bringing about a new beginning for Judah's relationship with the LORD.

DAY 5: Isaiah's commission

Read Isaiah 6:8-13

1. What is Isaiah meant to do and achieve?
2. Isaiah is commissioned to "Make the heart of this people calloused". How do you feel about the mission Isaiah has been given?
3. Since the LORD is perfectly good, what does this punishment tell us about Judah's situation?
 - a. Is your conclusion consistent with the message of Isaiah 1-6?

Isaiah's ministry was never completely fulfilled by Judah's exile to Babylon. Ultimately, Jesus would come and harden the last of Judah's hearts. Yet for those who would look at, listen to, and love Jesus, that same ministry would be a blessing (Matthew 13:13-17). Just as Isaiah was told, Judah needed an entirely new beginning. Yet it would be a new beginning that would grow out of the stump and seed of the nation of Judah (Isaiah 6:13).

Prayer: If you've found Isaiah's commissioning particularly confronting then that is something to pray about! Perhaps you'd like to ask your Father to help you see sin from His perspective, in case you're missing something? Or, you'd like to ask for help in loving Him with all of your heart, mind, soul and strength? Maybe it's something else? Regardless, it would make sense to thank Him for Jesus. He carried Isaiah's ministry to fulfilment, to bring about the LORD's new beginning; hope for the nations.

Judah's Situation and Isaiah's Commission

NOTES AND PRAYER POINTS

WEEK 2: ISAIAH 7-12

Now that Judah's situation and Isaiah's ministry have been introduced in Isaiah 1-6, we're into the main body of the book. Isaiah 7-39 deal with the theme of trust. Who will the nation of Judah put their trust in? Will they trust the LORD, or will they trust Assyria and the nations? Under the rule of King Ahaz, Judah will turn to Assyria for help, instead of the LORD.

(Today's reading is quite long, yet it will probably only take you about 10 minutes to read).

DAY 1: Signs of salvation

Read Isaiah 7:1-9:7

Ahaz was not a good king. *"He followed the ways of the kings of Israel and also made idols for worshiping the Baals. He burned sacrifices in the Valley of Ben Hinnom and sacrificed His children in the fire, engaging in the detestable practices of the nations the LORD had driven out before the Israelites."* 2 Chronicles 28:2-3.

1. There were a lot of predictive prophecies made in Isaiah 7:1-9:7. What was prophesied about Ahaz and Judah's future?

2. What was prophesied about Jesus?

3. What reasons were Ahaz and Judah given to trust the LORD, and what reasons are given here for us to trust the LORD?

Prayer: Isaiah 8:13-14 explicitly says that the LORD would be a stone of stumbling for His people. Yet the New Testament explicitly says that Jesus is that stone of stumbling (1 Peter 2:4-8). Given the other predictive prophecies here as well, it is all the more horrific that Jesus would be rejected by His own people when He began His ministry. We can fall into the same trap though. Ask your Father to protect you from fearing men, the nations, humanity; and to keep you finding more and more reasons to trust Him.

Whom Shall We Trust? The Nations!

In chapter 8, Isaiah prophesied that Assyria would carry away Israel's wealth (8:4), sweep into Judah and take over the entire land (8:7-8). However, Assyria isn't the real problem for Judah. Because of their sin, the LORD Himself is their problem!

BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

Joshua 14-23; Psalms 66-68;
Acts 17-18

DAY 2: Two facets of the LORD's trustworthy character

Read Isaiah 9:8-10:4

1. Why isn't the nation of Israel trusting the LORD in this passage?
2. What consequences do they face?
3. This passage keeps implying that the LORD would save Israel if they'd turn back to him. Of course, if they don't, He won't turn away His anger. What does this show us about the character of the LORD?

Prayer: Consider some people you know who currently don't trust the LORD. Ask your Father to help them to see both the consequences of not trusting Him, and His desire to see them saved.

WEEK 2: ISAIAH 7-12

We've already seen that Judah's main problem is not Assyria, but the LORD! However, these two different problems are linked. The LORD is The LORD of the Nations, not just the The LORD of Judah.

DAY 3: The LORD's comforting sovereignty

Read Isaiah 10:5-34

1. What does this passage say about the connection between Assyria and the LORD?
2. How does Assyria understand their role in the plans of the LORD?
3. How is the LORD's sovereignty over the nations meant to impact the way His people think and feel? Again and again, Isaiah's prophecies have been hard because Israel's hearts have been hard. Without any change in their hearts, the prophecy changes. Isaiah 11 contains one of the greatest Old Testament prophecies about the Messiah.

Prayer: Knowing that your Father controls every nation and ruler on earth ought to comfort you like it should have been a great comfort to the puny kingdom of Judah. If it doesn't comfort you, ask your Father to give you comfort knowing that He's in control. If it does comfort you, ask your Father to give you more comfort! There might be some particular world events, or life events, that you're feeling anxious about. Thank your Father for being in control of those circumstances as well. You might like to ask Him to change those circumstances, or simply to change the anxiety you feel about them – both things are good to pray for.

Whom Shall We Trust? The Nations!

DAY 4: A shoot from the stump of Jesse

Read Isaiah 11

1. We know that Jesus is the ultimate fulfilment of Isaiah 11. Verses 1-5 describe His relationship with the Holy Spirit and His character. Verses 6-16 describe the blessings He brought. This is very difficult to do, but try and forget everything you know from the New Testament... What expectations could Isaiah 11 give you about this shoot from the stump of Jesse?

2. If you're struggling, have a quick read of 2 Samuel 7:11-16 and Psalm 2. What picture could you have of this promised king? This might help you to develop some sympathy for the confused disciples and crowds in Jesus' time!

Prayer: Our Father raised up Jesus to be everything promised in these chapters, but also much more (which we'll come to later in Isaiah). Give thanks for the full picture of salvation that we have when we become familiar with the whole Bible. Give thanks not simply that we know about this salvation, but that it's profoundly good. Give praise for how glorious the King's character is: full of wisdom, understanding, might and so on...

WEEK 2: ISAIAH 7-12

If you're learning information but it's not affecting your heart, then either the information isn't very significant, or you're not really absorbing it. Isaiah 12 is the song of someone who's truly understood the facts of Isaiah 1-11. We're not all songwriters, but if we understand Isaiah 1-11, this ought to be our song.

DAY 5: The LORD has done gloriously

Read Isaiah 12

1. "In that day...", which day would have this kind of effect on Judah?
2. What is it that they understand has led them to this kind of response? Do you understand these things enough, that you have a similar response?
3. If you know a good song that reflects some of the ideas in this chapter, perhaps take a few minutes to listen to it, sing it, or look at the words. Perhaps you'd like to compose a song that reflects on the ideas in Isaiah 12.

Prayer: *"Give praise to the LORD, proclaim His name; make known among the nations what He has done, and proclaim that His name is exalted."*
Isaiah 12:4

Whom Shall We Trust? The Nations!

NOTES AND PRAYER POINTS

WEEK 3: ISAIAH 13-23

In this third week, we come to the section of Isaiah which describes the LORD's judgement on the nations (Isaiah 13-23). This week will have longer sections to read (about two chapters per day) and similar themes to reflect on. It will be helpful to keep Ahaz's reliance on the nations in mind as you go.

DAY 1: Judgement on the Mesopotamian powers

Read Isaiah 13:1-14:27

1. How do these verses show what the LORD thinks about the nations?
2. What do these verses show us about the LORD's relationship with His people?
3. Which elements of the LORD's relationship with His people here continue after Jesus' death and resurrection? Which elements cease or change?

Prayer: Each day this week, take some time to ask your Father to help you to deepen in your understanding of what you deserve from Him, and, in contrast, what we've received and will receive from Him. Pray for others to be saved from the LORD's terrible judgement.

The LORD's Judgement on The Nations

DAY 2: Judgement on Judah's neighbours

Read Isaiah 14:28-17:11

BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

Joshua 24; Judges 1-9;
Psalms 69-71; Acts 19-20

1. How do these verses show what the LORD thinks about the nations?
2. What do these verses show us about the LORD's relationship with His people?
3. Which elements of the LORD's relationship with His people here continue after Jesus' death and resurrection? Which elements cease or change?

Prayer: Each day this week, take some time to ask your Father to help you to deepen your understanding of what you deserve from Him, and, in contrast, what we've received and will receive from Him. Pray for others to be saved from the LORD's terrible judgement.

WEEK 3: ISAIAH 13-23

DAY 3: Judgement on all nations including Egypt

Read Isaiah 17:12-20:6

1. How do these verses show what the LORD thinks about the nations?
2. What do these verses show us about the LORD's relationship with His people?
3. Which elements of the LORD's relationship with His people here continue after Jesus' death and resurrection? Which elements cease or change?

Prayer: Each day this week, take some time to ask your Father to help you to deepen your understanding of what you deserve from Him, and, in contrast, what we've received and will receive from Him. Pray for others to be saved from the LORD's terrible judgement.

The LORD's Judgement on The Nations

DAY 4: Judgement on Babylon and her allies

Read Isaiah 21:1-22:25

1. How do these verses show what the LORD thinks about the nations?
2. What do these verses show us about the LORD's relationship with His people?
3. Which elements of the LORD's relationship with His people here continue after Jesus' death and resurrection? Which elements cease or change?

Prayer: Each day this week, take some time to ask your Father to help you to deepen your understanding of what you deserve from Him, and, in contrast, what we've received and will receive from Him. Pray for others to be saved from the LORD's terrible judgement.

WEEK 3: ISAIAH 13-23

DAY 5: Judgement on Tyre

Read Isaiah 23

1. How do these verses show what the LORD thinks about the nations?
2. What do these verses show us about the LORD's relationship with His people?
3. Which elements of the LORD's relationship with His people here continue after Jesus' death and resurrection? Which elements cease or change?

Prayer: Each day this week, take some time to ask your Father to help you to deepen your understanding of what you deserve from Him, and, in contrast, what we've received and will receive from Him. Pray for others to be saved from the LORD's terrible judgement.

The LORD's Judgement on The Nations

NOTES AND PRAYER POINTS

WEEK 4: ISAIAH 24-27

This week we're reading a section about the LORD'S triumph over the nations. His pronounced judgement will be effective and no guilty person will escape it (except those to whom the LORD is merciful). The theme of the Day of the LORD will be repeated over these five days.

DAY 1: The earth is crushed

Read Isaiah 24

1. How different will the outcome of the Day of the LORD be for the LORD'S chosen people and His enemies?
2. How should Israel respond to these prophecies, with Babylon waging war around them?
3. What do these prophecies imply about the LORD'S enemies today?

Prayer: Each day this week, give thanks to your Father for salvation, and ask for help to treasure your salvation more and more. Ask for that same salvation to be extended and given to more and more people. Give thanks that we don't need to fear persecution, and ask that from that place of no fear we'd be able to serve and love those who might persecute us, and who need to know the LORD'S salvation.

The LORD's Triumph over The Nations

BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

Judges 10-19; Psalms 72;
Proverbs 10-11; Acts 21-22

DAY 2: The LORD's feast

Read Isaiah 25

1. How different will the outcome of the Day of the LORD be for the LORD's chosen people and His enemies?
2. How should Israel respond to these prophecies, with Babylon waging war around them?
3. What do these prophecies imply about the LORD's enemies today?

Prayer: Each day this week, give thanks to your Father for salvation, and ask for help to treasure your salvation more and more. Ask for that same salvation to be extended and given to more and more people. Give thanks that we don't need to fear persecution, and ask that from that place of no fear we'd be able to serve and love those who might persecute us, and who need to know the LORD's salvation.

WEEK 4: ISAIAH 24-27

DAY 3: Judah's song

Read Isaiah 26

1. How different will the outcome of the Day of the LORD be for the LORD'S chosen people and His enemies?
2. How should Israel respond to these prophecies, with Babylon waging war around them?
3. What do these prophecies imply about the LORD's enemies today?

Prayer: Each day this week, give thanks to your Father for salvation, and ask for help to treasure your salvation more and more. Ask for that same salvation to be extended and given to more and more people. Give thanks that we don't need to fear persecution, and ask that from that place of no fear we'd be able to serve and love those who might persecute us, and who need to know the LORD's salvation.

The LORD's Triumph over The Nations

DAY 4: The LORD delivers Judah

Read Isaiah 27

1. How different will the outcome of the Day of the LORD be for the LORD's chosen people and His enemies?
2. How should Israel respond to these prophecies, with Babylon waging war around them?
3. What do these prophecies imply about the LORD's enemies today?

Prayer: Each day this week, give thanks to your Father for salvation, and ask for help to treasure your salvation more and more. Ask for that same salvation to be extended and given to more and more people. Give thanks that we don't need to fear persecution, and ask that from that place of no fear we'd be able to serve and love those who might persecute us, and who need to know the LORD's salvation.

WEEK 4: ISAIAH 24-27

DAY 5: Whom should we fear?

Read Luke 12:1-12

1. How could we act when we fear the wrong person?
2. How could we act when we fear the LORD?
3. How could it benefit us to fear the LORD?
4. How could it benefit others if we feared the LORD?
5. How could it honour the LORD for us to fear Him?

Prayer: Each day this week, give thanks to your Father for salvation, and ask for help to treasure your salvation more and more. Ask for that same salvation to be extended and given to more and more people. Give thanks that we don't need to fear persecution, and ask that from that place of no fear we'd be able to serve and love those who might persecute us, and who need to know the LORD's salvation.

The LORD's Triumph over The Nations

NOTES AND PRAYER POINTS

WEEK 5: ISAIAH 28-35

The theme of 'trust' is returning to us in this section (Isaiah 28-33). The prophecies so far have given many reasons not to trust the nations like Ahaz did (Isaiah 7-12). In these six chapters the foolishness of trusting the nations is spelled out.

DAY 1: Woe to the drunken rulers

Read Isaiah 28-29

1. Why is it folly for Israel to trust the nations?
2. How does the world around us influence us in ways that we shouldn't be affected, and in ways that we should be protected against?
3. What should we always remember from these chapters that will protect us from the wrong influence of the world, and enable us to love and serve them? In other words, how can we avoid being mastered by the world, yet remain servants of the world?

Prayer: Ask your Father to grow you in your separation from the influence of the world around you, but also in your love and service of those around you.

The Results of Trusting The LORD or The Nations

DAY 2: Woe to those who trust in Egypt

Read Isaiah 30-31

BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

Judges 20-21; Ruth 1-4; 1 Samuel 1-4;
Proverbs 12-14; Acts 23-24

1. Why is it folly for Israel to trust the nations?
2. How does the world around us influence us in ways that we shouldn't be affected, and in ways that we should be protected against?
3. What should we always remember from these chapters that will protect us from the wrong influence of the world, and enable us to love and serve them? In other words, how can we avoid being mastered by the world, yet remain servants of the world?

Prayer: Ask your Father to grow you in your separation from the influence of the world around you, but also in your love and service of those around you.

WEEK 5: ISAIAH 28-35

DAY 3: Behold the king

Read Isaiah 32-33

1. Why is it folly for Israel to trust the nations?
2. How does the world around us influence us in ways that we shouldn't be affected, and in ways that we should be protected against?
3. What should we always remember from these chapters that will protect us from the wrong influence of the world, and enable us to love and serve them? In other words, how can we avoid being mastered by the world, yet remain servants of the world?

Prayer: Ask your Father to grow you in your separation from the influence of the world around you, but also in your love and service of those around you.

The Results of Trusting The LORD or The Nations

In these next two chapters (Isaiah 34-35), we see the results of trusting The LORD or the nations. There will be consequences either way.

DAY 4: The desert

Read Isaiah 34

1. Imagine that you're the king of Israel. How should these prophecies influence your thinking about how to lead Israel?
2. What would you want to remind the LORD's people?
3. What would you want to remind yourself?

Prayer: Ask your Father to help you view life and all of existence through the lens of these truths, rather than with the eyes through which the nations would have you view life.

WEEK 5: ISAIAH 28-35

DAY 5: The garden

Read Isaiah 35

1. Imagine that you're the king of Israel. How should these prophecies influence your thinking about how to lead Israel?
2. What would you want to remind the LORD's people?
3. What would you want to remind yourself?

Prayer: Ask your Father to help you view life and all of existence through the lens of these truths, rather than with the eyes through which the nations would have you view life.

The Results of Trusting The LORD or The Nations

NOTES AND PRAYER POINTS

WEEK 6: ISAIAH 36-39

This week will bring us to the end of the first main section of the book (Isaiah 1-39). The key question has been, “whom shall we trust?”. Ahaz chose not to trust the LORD but to trust the nations (Isaiah 7). After all of these prophecies about the LORD’s rule over the nations, His judgement of the nations (Isaiah 13-23), His triumph over the nations (Isaiah 24-27), the foolishness of trusting the nations (Isaiah 28-33), and the consequences of the choice to trust the LORD or the nations (Isaiah 34-35), who will the new king trust? Will Hezekiah heed the warnings and trust the LORD? Or will he simply look at the imposing armies in front of him and trust Assyria?

DAY 1: The rabshaqeh’s (field commander’s) challenge

Read Isaiah 36:1-37:7

1. What challenge is the King of Assyria making through his rabshaqeh (or ‘field commander’ depending on your translation)?
2. What do these chapters tell us about the LORD’s authority over the nations?
3. What do you want Hezekiah to remember at this time?
4. What do you think of the response to the challenge?

Prayer: Ask your Father to help you to remember the truth about Him, not only when you’re obviously tempted or tested, but all the time. Perhaps you’d like to pick a particular area of your life where you’ve recognised that the truth slips to the side of your thinking?

Whom Shall We Trust? The LORD!

DAY 2: The king's challenge

BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

1 Samuel 5-14; Proverbs 15-17;
Acts 25-26

Read Isaiah 37:8-38

1. What challenge is the King of Assyria making through his rabshakeh (or 'field commander' depending on your translation)?
2. To not trust the LORD often takes the same shape as the 'challenge' of the Serpent in Genesis 3. What's the common feature?
3. What do you want Hezekiah to remember at this time?
4. What do these chapters tell us about the LORD's authority over the nations?

Prayer: Ask your Father to help you to remember the truth about Him, not only when you're obviously tempted or tested, but all of the time. Perhaps you'd like to pick another area of your life where you've recognised that the truth slips to the side of your thinking?

WEEK 6: ISAIAH 36-39

DAY 3: Hezekiah's illness

Read Isaiah 38

1. Do you think Hezekiah was a good king, or a bad king? Why?
2. How are you like Hezekiah, and how are you different?
3. Ahaz didn't trust the LORD. Did Hezekiah? Did he trust Him enough?

Prayer: Ask your Father to help you to remember the truth about Him, not only when you're obviously tempted or tested, but all of the time. Perhaps you'd like to pick another area of your life where you've recognised that the truth slips to the side of your thinking?

WEEK 6: ISAIAH 36-39

DAY 5: By the rivers of Babylon

Read **2 Chronicles 36:15-23** and **Psalms 137**

1. What is life like in Babylon for the exiled Israelites?

2. What hope do they have?

3. How are we like them in exile? How are we different?

Prayer: Ask your Father to help you to remember the truth about Him, not only when you're obviously tempted or tested, but all of the time. Perhaps you'd like to pick another area of your life where you've recognised that the truth slips to the side of your thinking?

Whom Shall We Trust? The LORD!

NOTES AND PRAYER POINTS

WEEK 7: ISAIAH 40-48

This week begins our time in the second major section of Isaiah. Isaiah 1-39 was written to Judah before the Babylonian exile, urging them (and especially their kings) to trust The LORD of the Nations, not the nations. Yet, they trusted wrongly. Isaiah 40-55 is written to exiled Israel, giving them comfort in their seventy years of discipline.

DAY 1: The servant's lord

Read Isaiah 40

1. What comfort does the LORD offer His people here?

2. What can the LORD be compared to (or not!)?

3. Why is the LORD dependable?

Prayer: Praise your Father for His character, incomparability and dependability!

The Motive for Servanthood: Grace

DAY 2: The LORD's promises to His servants

Read Isaiah 41:1-42:9

BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

1 Samuel 15-24; Proverbs 18-20;
Acts 27-28

1. What comfort does the LORD offer His people here?

2. What do we learn about the LORD's servant here?

Prayer: Praise your Father for His comfort in His provision of this servant.

WEEK 7: ISAIAH 40-48

DAY 3: Redeemed to be the LORD's witnesses

Read Isaiah 42:10-44:22

1. What is the LORD promising His people here?
2. How are the redeemed meant to respond to the LORD?
3. How would the response be different if the redemption was from Babylon versus if the redemption was from sin?

Prayer: Praise your Father for His personal work to redeem His people.

The Motive for Servanthood: Grace

DAY 4: The LORD redeems His servant

Read Isaiah 44:23-47:15

1. How will the LORD redeem His servant here?
2. How does the context of Isaiah 45:9-13 help you to understand the meaning of its use in Romans 9:19-24?
3. How does the LORD compare to idols and Babylon?

Prayer: Praise your Father for how different He is to all else: Holy! And praise Him for the ways He redeems His people, physically here through His anointed, Cyrus, and ultimately in His anointed, Jesus.

WEEK 7: ISAIAH 40-48

DAY 5: Hear the LORD

Read Isaiah 48

1. What does this tell us about the Word of the LORD?
2. What does it say or imply about how we should respond to the Word of the LORD?
3. The Bible is the Word of the LORD. How should we treat it?

Prayer: Praise your Father for the power and authority of His Word. Ask for help in the way we treat the Bible, and, therefore, how we treat Him.

The Motive for Servanthood: Grace

NOTES AND PRAYER POINTS

WEEK 8: ISAIAH 49-55

This week, we will finish the second major section of the book (Isaiah 40-55). Having focused on the motive for servanthood (which is grace) in Isaiah 40-48, Isaiah will now focus on the means of servanthood (which is atonement).

DAY 1: Comfort through the servant

Read Isaiah 49:1-50:9

1. How will the LORD call and prepare His servant?
2. What will the LORD's servant achieve?
3. What comfort is there for the people of the LORD in these verses?

Prayer: Praise your Father for the comfort He provides for His people.

The Means of Servanthood: Atonement

DAY 2: Obey the voice of His servant

Read Isaiah 50:10-51:8

BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

1 Samuel 25-31; 2 Samuel 1-3;
Proverbs 21-22; Mark 1-2

1. What do you make of the comparison between light and darkness here?
2. What is being promised in 51:1-8?
3. How would these verses comfort you in exile in Babylon?
4. How could these verses comfort someone today, who'd never heard about Jesus, and was reading the Bible from cover to cover for the first time?
5. How could these verses comfort a Christian?

Prayer: Praise your Father for the comfort He provides for His people, and His great promises.

WEEK 8: ISAIAH 49-55

DAY 3: Awake and be delivered

Read Isaiah 51:9-52:12

1. What is the LORD calling Israel to do here?
2. What is the LORD promising to be for Israel here?
3. What is holding Israel back?
4. What holds us back from trusting the LORD in everything?

Prayer: Praise the LORD for what He's promised to be for His people. Ask Him to break down thinking that is holding you back from trusting Him more and more.

The Means of Servanthood: Atonement

DAY 4: Proclamation of salvation

Read Isaiah 52:13-53:12

1. What is going to happen to the LORD's servant?
2. Who will He be punished for?
3. What will be the outcome of His punishment?
4. How could you prove that Jesus is this servant?

Prayer: Praise the LORD for His servant, who would die to atone for our sin.

WEEK 8: ISAIAH 49-55

"The LORD was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them... The LORD made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of the LORD."
2 Corinthians 5:19-21

DAY 5: Invitation to salvation

Read Isaiah 54-55

1. What do these verses tell us about the LORD's love?
2. How does that connect with yesterday's passage?
3. What do these verses tell us about receiving that love?
4. How does that connect with yesterday's passage?

Prayer: If you've never accepted the salvation that the LORD has offered you, then thank Him for it today! Thank Him for His love and forgiveness because of the atoning work of His servant.

If you've already done that, thank Him for it again! Thank Him for His love and forgiveness because of the atoning work of His servant.

The Means of Servanthood: Atonement

NOTES AND PRAYER POINTS

WEEK 9: ISAIAH 56-59

In these last two weeks, we'll look at the third and final major section of the book. Isaiah 1-39 were addressed to Judah before the Babylonian exile, urging them to trust The Lord of the Nations, not the mere nations themselves. Isaiah 40-55 offered comfort to Judah during their exile in Babylon. The LORD would have Judah as His servants again through grace and atonement. Now, in Isaiah 56-66, Judah are addressed after they've returned from their seventy years in Babylonian exile. There are warnings about not returning to their old ways, and encouragements to understand how dependent they are on the LORD and His strength, not on themselves or the nations.

DAY 1: Obedience, not birthright

Read Isaiah 56:1-8

1. What wrong way of thinking do these verses deal with?
2. What is the right way of thinking that they teach instead?
3. What differences are there between those two ways of thinking?
4. How does this section help us to understand our own inability to live righteously?

Prayer: Pray for those you know who may be relying on something equivalent to their birthright for a right relationship with the LORD, or anything that could give them false confidence. Ask your Father to teach them, and yourself, the better way to relate to Him.

The Marks of Servanthood 1: Human Inability

DAY 2: Injustice and idolatry

BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

2 Samuel 4-13; Psalms 73-75;
Mark 3-4

Read Isaiah 56:9-57:13

1. How does this section help us understand our own inability to live righteously?
2. What did idolatry look like for Judah? Why was it a problem?
3. Do we have an equivalent way of stepping into the same problems as Judah did with idolatry? What is it?
4. What other problems do we have that aren't equivalent to idolatry?

Prayer: Pray for humility when you think about your own righteousness before your Father. Ask for clarity about the problems that stand between us and Him, which are our own fault.

WEEK 9: ISAIAH 56-59

DAY 3: Holy and the humble

Read Isaiah 57:14-21

1. How does this section help us understand our own inability to live righteously?
2. What offer of help is there here from the LORD?
3. Why must the LORD be offering more than simple 'help' here?
4. How do these two statements work together?
 - a. "There is no peace... for the wicked" (Isaiah 57:21)
 - b. "...God who justifies the ungodly" (Romans 4:5)

Prayer: Thank your Father for His unceasing love for unrighteous people. Ask Him to keep you humble and trusting Him always.

WEEK 9: ISAIAH 56-59

DAY 5: His own arm brings victory

Read Isaiah 59

1. What does this passage say about the effects of iniquity? (verses 1-15)
2. How will salvation come to people who can't be righteous themselves? (verses 15b-21)
3. How does this make you feel about yourself?
4. How does this make you feel about the LORD?

Prayer: Take time to apologise to your Father for your sin, and thank Him for the way He has taken the initiative and the cost to save you.

The Marks of Servanthood 1: Human Inability

NOTES AND PRAYER POINTS

WEEK 10: ISAIAH 60-66

The last seven chapters of Isaiah shift from the theme of human inability (Isaiah 56-59) to the themes of the LORD's glorification of His people (Isaiah 60-62), and the LORD's ability to bring about Israel's righteous salvation (Isaiah 63-66).

DAY 1: The glory of the LORD

Read Isaiah 60

1. How do the nations reveal the LORD's glory?

2. What do they reveal about the LORD's glory?

Prayer: Praise your Father for the ways that He is glorious, for the ways that the nations reveal His glory, and for other aspects of His glory that are revealed in other ways that come to mind.

The Marks of Servanthood 2: Divine Ability

DAY 2: The holy people

Read Isaiah 61:1-62:12

BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

2 Samuel 14-24; Psalms 76-77;
Mark 5-6

1. What do these verses say about the LORD'S Anointed?
2. What do they say about the rest of the LORD'S people?
3. How does Jesus merge together the character of the LORD'S Anointed and the atoning work He's come to do in Luke 4:14-27?

Prayer: Thank your Father for sending Jesus, for the one He was anointed to be, and the atoning work He came to do.

WEEK 10: ISAIAH 60-66

DAY 3: Divine ability

Read Isaiah 63-64

1. What are Israel waiting for the LORD to come and do?
2. What is prompting Israel to cry out to the LORD here?
3. What do we understand, in our time in history, that the Israelites didn't understand when they'd returned from exile in Babylon?

Prayer: Thank your Father for the salvation from His enemies that He has promised us. Thank Him for the decisive victory that was won at the Cross, and the consummation of that victory that awaits us at Jesus' return. Ask your Father to help you to wait faithfully.

The Marks of Servanthood 2: Divine Ability

DAY 4: Rebels and servants: The LORD's response

Read Isaiah 65:1-16

1. Why hasn't the LORD answered the cry of Israel yet (the cry is in yesterday's passage, and the reason for His non-response is in this passage)?
2. Despite the fact that He hasn't yet answered Israel's cry, what does the LORD promise to do in this passage?
3. How different are the consequences for those who trust the LORD from those who don't?

Prayer: Thank your Father for His constant calling for us to trust Him. More than anything else, pray that He would help you to trust with great patience and confidence in the promises He has made.

WEEK 10: ISAIAH 60-66

DAY 5: The final judgement

Read Isaiah 65:17-66:24

1. How does it help you to know what the New Heavens and the New Earth will be like?
2. How should we respond to the LORD's Word while we wait?
3. What does the LORD promise to those who respond rightly to His Word?
4. What does the LORD promise to those who won't worship Him?

Prayer: Thank your Father for the undeniable clarity that He has given us about Himself, ourselves, and His plans for eternity. Pray for His peace to extend like a river throughout our families, communities, and our entire world. Pray that He would be known as He has revealed Himself, and worshipped as He deserves.

The Marks of Servanthood 2: Divine Ability

NOTES AND PRAYER POINTS



Seth and Kate Buddhist Asia

As the fourth largest religion in the world, Buddhism comprises 10% of the world's population. The Buddhistic 'Bonba' people are gospel-zero: No gospel. No Bible. No church. No chance to hear about Jesus. Humanly speaking, not a hope in hell. So pray for Seth and Kate as they seek to plant churches in gospel-zero Buddhist Asia.

Kirstin Nepal



Kirstin has worked in Nepal as an Occupational Therapist for the past seven years. She ministers in a Christian hospital and has regular opportunities to share her faith and pray for patients. Thank God for the growing church in Nepal and pray for leadership development. Please continue to pray for Kirstin in this context, as she disciples women in her local church, and for her and Binay after their recent marriage.

Craig and Samantha McCorkindale (CMS) Cambodia

Craig and Samantha (Hannah, Clare and Joel) are into their second year in Cambodia. They continue with more independent language learning in the community, but Craig has begun putting his Khmer to work, teaching the Old Testament at Phnom Penh Bible School. Pray for continued relationships in their community as they share the love of Jesus there.



The Geneva Push Australia

Geneva Push is an Australian Church Planting Network aiming to inspire, equip and unleash a new generation of church planters dedicated to evangelising churches into existence. Pray for the assessment process, provision of ongoing support and training through coaching, mentoring, and conferences to ensure the biggest impact as church planters.

**GENEVA
PUSH >>**

Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches Australia

These churches are committed to praying for one another and continuing to promote planting of evangelical churches throughout Australia. Their pastors seek to provide support and encouragement to one another. FIEC is aiming, with God's help, to plant 100 churches across Australia during the next 15 years.





Derek and Anna
(OMF) Southeast Asia

Derek and Anna (Liam, Jasmine and Juliet) are working in theological education and cross-cultural worker mobilisation in Southeast Asia. Pray for Derek as he continues with his classes in a local Bible college and is starting to train people to reach out to minority ethnic groups where there is no church. They are also trying to reach out to their local community, developing friendships and reading the Bible with those interested.



Martin and Jen Shadwick
(AFES) Newcastle University

Martin and Jen (with their three children) work with AFES discipling and training Christian students. Martin continues to work with both local and overseas students. Pray for wisdom in balancing ministry and family life, and for new partners to help them continue in this important ministry.



Nicole Berlach
Tuggerah Lakes Scripture Board (TLSB)

Nicole works with the TLSB teaching Year 11-12 Scripture three days at The Entrance Campus. She also meets with students one-to-one and helps organise the FUSE camp for Christian students. Pray for Nicole and the team (also at Tumbi and Berkley Vale High Schools) as they share Jesus with young people who may not have heard.



Colin and Jill Bakon
(SIM) Church and Missionary Mobilisation

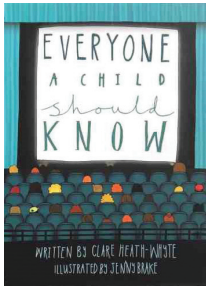
Colin's two roles are in church mobilisation in Latin America where he is raising up national teams to run Kairos, with special focus this year on Ecuador and Peru. And he is working with a task force to mobilise for new initiatives within SIM to see work happening in areas where there is no church.

EV KIDS RESOURCES

Biographies For Kids

It is always encouraging to hear how God has worked in the lives of different people across the ages and used them to grow His kingdom and bless others. Reading biographies enables you to see God's Word applied in somebody else's life and how living a life for the glory of Jesus can take many different forms.

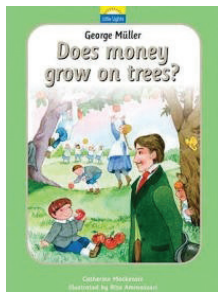
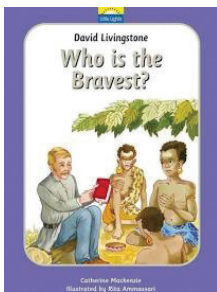
Everyone A Child Should Know by Claire Heath Whyte (4-8 years)



This book gives a brief overview of a number of different people. It is well written and has lovely graphics and a Bible verse to accompany the information about each

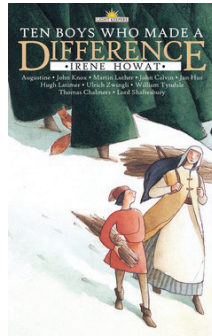
person. It is highly recommended.

Little Light Series (4-8 years)



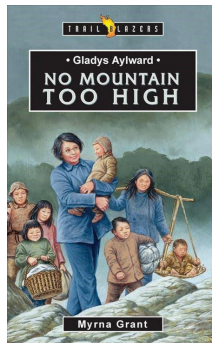
There are a number of different books in this series. Each book gives information about a particular person accompanied with pictures.

Light Keepers Series by Irene Howat (8-12 years)



These books cover a number of different biographies. Example titles are "Ten boys who made a difference" and "Ten girls who changed the world".

Trail Blazers Series (10-12 years)



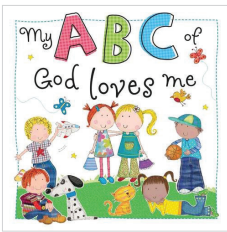
Each book is about a particular individual. They are well written. Some books are more engaging than others depending on the circumstances of the individual's life. Some are set in war time

but the topic is dealt with very age appropriately.

Doctrine for Kids

The Bible is given to us by God so that we might know Him and the Lord Jesus Christ. It is a profound book filled with great treasures of truth. It is great to have books available to us that document many of those great truths.

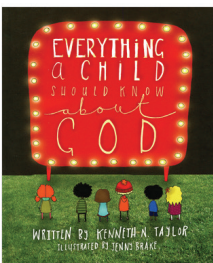
My ABC Of God Loves Me by Fiona Boon



This board book is terrific for toddlers and preschoolers. Working through the letters of the alphabet, it highlights

an aspect of God's character in a short rhyme which will be very memorable for kids. The illustrations are colourful and relate to the rhyme. "God is always just. He knows right from wrong. He helps us do what's right even when we're not strong."

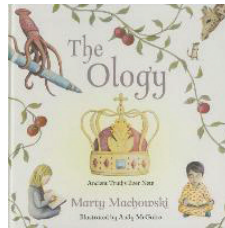
Everything A Child Should Know About God by Kenneth Taylor



An excellent way to introduce the characteristics of God to preschoolers. Each page has a some brief information, a Bible reference,

a simple question and a lovely picture to illustrate the main point.

The Ology by Marty Machowski (7-12 years)



The Ology is a theology book for kids to help them understand who God is and how we, as His children, relate to Him. The

book covers the theology of God, the theology of people, the theology of sin, the theology of Christ and more. Each chapter includes information about the theology, a picture which can be used for discussion with younger children in particular, and Bible references to look up. The inclusion of all these features means that it can be read with individual children, or as a family.



We are kicking off our Summer Series across all EV Growth Groups this term. Summer Series is a sermon series run over four weeks in January where we look at topics that might interest our non-Christian friends and family. However, it's in Term 3 and 4 that we survey people we know to find out which topics to present in January.

This year we are asking the question:

What do you think brings satisfaction in life?

SATISFIED?
What do you think brings satisfaction in life...

The summer series survey has always created great discussion and helped with invitations to the January events.

What's cool about this year's survey is that many of the people we talk to may not have considered a question like this before. We are going to get heaps of different ideas coming in and it will make for a very interesting series in January.

If you get a chance to ask your friends and family this question, then you could also try asking these follow-up questions:

- *Why do you think that?*
- *Do you have it?*
- *What do you think the Bible would say about this?*

Here's how it works...

WHAT TO SAY?

It might go something like this...

...my church is wanting to put on a really interesting series of talks this coming January. It's called "Satisfied?". So... we're asking as many people as we can, "What do you think brings satisfaction in life?" We're going to take the top four responses, and they will be the topics we look at in church throughout January.



WHO?

You could ask...



People in your household



Friends & Neighbours



School or Workmates



Sports team members

HOW?

You could use any of these methods...



Online: PC, Phone, Tablet

www.evchurch.info



A printed Survey slip

Who are the people who you could ask the survey question to?

Pray for these survey conversations and opportunities to invite them to the Summer Series talks in January 2020.

