

HOW TO USE THIS GROUP GUIDE

CONNECT (10 MINS)

- Pick one or more of the warm-up questions and have all the group members give a response to the question(s).
- Make sure everybody gets a chance to speak. Don't let talkative people dominate the conversation, but graciously welcome everybody to participate.

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TRUTH (15-20 MIN)

- Read the scriptures and paragraphs in this section to clearly communicate what the Bible says about the week's topic.
- **"DISCUSS" sections:** These sections get people discussing the practical implications of the truth being discussed. Have one or two people give an answer, but don't spend too much time on these questions.

GRACE (5 MINS)

- Read the grace scripture and section which shows how the passage points to Jesus Christ and God's grace.
- This section is really important, because it shows that life change begins with the grace of God and not our own efforts.

CHANGE (10-15 MINS)

- Have everyone give an answer to each of the change questions.
- Take a good amount of time here. Really encourage people to think through how they can practically put truth into action.

PRAYER (10-15 MINS)

- Read through the prayer focus points and have one or two people in the group pray.
- Make sure not to rush through prayer. The things we want God to change in our lives will often happen through prayer.

DISCIPLESHIP CHECK-IN (2 MINS)

- This final portion aims to get people reading the Bible for themselves and thinking about engaging others with the gospel.



THE LESSONS
OF THE MAJOR PROPHETS



GROUP GUIDE



ALETHEIA
CHURCH

Week 1

CONNECT

*BREAK THE ICE AND
GET PEOPLE TALKING*

- What is your favorite city you have visited?
- Growing up, what was discipline like in your family?
- Have you ever read the Old Testament Prophets, and if so, what was your experience like?

TRUTH

UNDERSTAND AND DISCUSS THE SCRIPTURE'S MEANING

In this short series, we will be exploring the four Major Prophets of the Old Testament, and the timelessness of their teachings. The lessons they sought to impart to the people of God from generations past are, in so many ways, still so relevant for us today. In order to understand the ministry of Jesus in his time, and our own time, we must understand that we are all a part of the same story, nearing a climactic end when Christ returns. This week we will be studying two key sections in the book of Isaiah in order to help us better understand the entirety of his works. For more background on the book of Isaiah, we recommend watching the videos provided on the Bible Project website.

GOD'S JUDGMENT...

READ: Isaiah 1:21-28, 2:2-5

DISCUSS: How does Isaiah contrast the unfaithful and the faithful cities?

Isaiah uses the images of two cities throughout his writings, and contrasts them as rebellious, idolatrous, and wicked, or as the image of a perfect city to which all people come to learn of God and serve him. In these verses, while Isaiah is speaking directly about contemporary Jerusalem and its future holy version, the image of the unfaithful city is expanded later in the book into a metaphor for all cities, and the sinfulness of humanity. The future vision of the New Jerusalem, however, is speaking directly to the same future city of God to which the Bible constantly looks forward in hope and anticipation.

...IS THE SEEDBED OF HIS SALVATION

READ: Isaiah 53

DISCUSS: How does this passage describe the suffering servant, and how he becomes offering for sin?

Beginning in chapter 49, the servant of God depicted in Isaiah's writings is the means by which God brings about his justice. The servant of God is the seed discussed in earlier chapters who delivers Israel from exile, and enacts the coming of the New Jerusalem. The rebellion, sin, and idolatry of the people of God and the nations demands judgment be exacted. God cannot simply ignore sin, and as such, payment is necessary. However, paradoxically, it is the suffering servant who pays this price on behalf of God's people, and the idolatrous nations of the world. He becomes an offering to God for sin, and the transgressions of all are remedied.

GRACE

SEE HOW THE PASSAGE CONNECTS TO JESUS

*Repent, for the kingdom of Heaven is at hand.
(Matthew 4:17)*

It is imperative to understand that Isaiah is speaking not only to his contemporary audience, and prophetically to an audience two hundred years later coming out of exile in Babylon, but very much to future generations as well. The suffering servant of God—the lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world—is indeed Jesus Christ. When he announces in Matthew chapter 4 that the “kingdom of heaven is at hand,” he is fulfilling what Isaiah spoke of 700 years prior about the coming faithful city. He takes on the judgment and wrath of all humanity’s sins, and therefore, God’s judgment does indeed become the seedbed of his salvation.

CHANGE

*APPLY THE PASSAGE TO OUR
THOUGHTS, FEELINGS, AND ACTIONS*

- Can you think of a time recently when you've been convicted of sin? What has repentance looked like?
- Does it change your perspective to know that Jesus' sacrifice, not your good works, is what brings salvation?
- What are some practical steps you can take to see real life change come through repentance?

PRAYER

RESPOND TO THE PASSAGE IN PRAYER

- Pray that God would humble our hearts in matters of our faithlessness.
- Pray that we might all embrace repentance before God in hope and in joy.

DISCIPLESHIP CHECK-IN

- Have you read your Bible consistently the past week?
- Who is someone you're engaging with the gospel?



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