

ISAIAH: Trusting God's Promises

Second Week in Lent: March 1, 2026



Small Group Guide: Isaiah - Trusting God's Promises: Finding the Hope

OPENING PRAYER

Begin by inviting God's presence into your discussion. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you see yourselves honestly and to receive God's grace deeply.

ICEBREAKER

Share about a time when someone confronted you about something difficult, but it ultimately led to positive change in your life. How did that feel in the moment versus looking back on it now?

KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM THE SERMON

1. **God is both loving and holy:** We need both pictures to understand God correctly. (Isaiah 6:3, Isaiah 1:2)
2. **Sin operates on two levels:** We must address both personal sin and the brokenness in our culture. (Isaiah 5:7)
3. **Hypocrisy is dangerous:** The gap between what we say and how we live can be spiritually deadly. (Isaiah 29:13)
4. **God's discipline flows from love:** Judgment is meant to awaken us, not destroy us. (Hebrews 12:6)
5. **Grace is God's final word:** No matter how far we've fallen, God says "Come." (Isaiah 1:18)
6. **We haven't arrived yet:** God continually reveals new areas that need transformation. (Philippians 3:12)
7. **Isaiah points to Jesus:** The hope we find in Isaiah finds its fulfillment at the cross. (Luke 24:27)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Understanding God's Character

1. **The Two Pictures of God:** The sermon presented two essential pictures of God: the intimate, loving Father (Isaiah 1) and the holy, righteous King (Isaiah 6).

- a) Which picture of God did you grow up with most prominently? How has that shaped your faith?
 - b) Why is it dangerous to emphasize only one picture and ignore the other?
 - c) How does holding both pictures together change the way you approach God?
2. **Isaiah's Response:** When Isaiah encountered God's holiness, he cried out, "Woe is me! I am ruined! I am a man of unclean lips". (Isaiah 6:5-8)
- d) What does Isaiah's response teach us about true worship?
 - e) Have you ever had a moment where you were overwhelmed by God's holiness? What was that like?
 - f) How does recognizing our unworthiness actually free us rather than crush us?

Examining Sin—Societal and Personal

1. **Societal Sin:** The sermon identified several cultural issues: entertainment that normalizes immorality, echo chambers in media, economic injustice, and violence.
- Isaiah 1:16–17 – justice
 - Isaiah 1:23 – bribery
 - Isaiah 2:7–8 – wealth & idols
 - Isaiah 3:9 – parading sin
 - Isaiah 5:20 – “Woe to those who call evil good...”
 - Isaiah 10:1–2 – unjust laws
- a) Which of these societal sins do you think has the most impact on your daily life or your family?
 - b) How can we engage with culture without being shaped by its values?
 - c) What is one practical step you could take to be more intentional about the media you consume or the conversations you have?
2. **Personal Sin:** The pastor shared that his sins have evolved from obvious behaviors (swearing, partying) to more insidious ones (pride, arrogance, hypocrisy).
- Romans 3:23
 - Jeremiah 17:9
 - 1 John 1:8–9
- a) Why are "respectable" sins like pride and hypocrisy often more dangerous than obvious sins?
 - b) What sins have you found yourself wrestling with at different stages of your spiritual journey?
 - c) How do you respond when the Holy Spirit shines light on a dark corner of your heart?

3. **Hypocrisy in Worship:** God told Israel: "Stop bringing meaningless offerings... I cannot bear your worthless assemblies".

Isaiah 1:13–14

Amos 5:21–24

Matthew 23:27–28

- a) What does it look like to worship God with our lips while our hearts are far from Him?
- b) In what areas of your life might there be a gap between what you profess and how you live?
- c) How can we guard against religious hypocrisy in our own lives?

Finding Hope in God's Promises

1. **God says:** "Come Now, Let Us Reason Together" & "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be white as snow"

Isaiah 30:18

Micah 7:18

- a) What does it mean that God invites us to "reason together" rather than simply condemning us?
- b) How does this invitation change the way you think about confession and repentance?
- c) Share a time when you experienced God's forgiveness in a powerful way.

2. **The Purpose of Lent:** The sermon emphasized that Lent is about examining ourselves to understand why we need a Savior.

- a) How does honestly confronting our sin help us appreciate the cross more deeply?
- b) What practices during Lent have been most helpful for your spiritual growth?
- c) How can we embrace self-examination without falling into shame or despair?

3. **Judgment Is Not God's Final Word:** Isaiah repeatedly moves from judgment to hope, pointing ultimately toward Jesus.

Isaiah 2:5

Isaiah 12:2

Isaiah 25:8

- a) How does knowing that "grace is God's final word" change the way you read difficult passages of Scripture?
- b) In what area of your life do you most need to hear that God's final word is grace, not judgment?

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

Choose one of the following to practice this week:

Option 1: The Mirror Exercise

- Set aside 20 minutes for honest self-examination. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal one area where there's a gap between what you profess and how you live.
- Write it down. Confess it to God. Ask for His help to change.
- Consider sharing it with a trusted friend or accountability partner.

Option 2: Media Audit

- Track what you watch, listen to, and read for three days.
- Ask yourself: Is this shaping me toward Christ or away from Him?
- Make one concrete change based on what you discover.

Option 3: Practice "Come"

- Each morning this week, read Isaiah 1:18 and meditate on God's invitation.
- Bring one specific sin to God each day and receive His forgiveness.
- Journal about how it feels to be invited rather than condemned.

Option 4: Worship with Integrity

- Before attending worship this week, examine your heart.
- Confess any hypocrisy or areas where your worship has become routine.
- Ask God to make your worship genuine and heartfelt.

Closing Prayer: (unison)

"Lord, we have stood in the mirror today. We've seen our sin—both personal and societal. And yet you do not turn away. You say, 'Come.' So we come as we are, not pretending or performing. Thank You that your final word is not judgment but grace. Make us humble. Make us grateful. Make us ready to trust you again. In Jesus' name, Amen."