

SEE THE KING!

with Isaiah

'Your eyes will behold the King in his beauty (Is. 33:17)'



Handouts to help you read & understand –
for personal Bible study, reading the Bible with a friend or with a group

6th Session THEME: The biggest problem of humanity

1. Start with prayer. Then look at this icebreaker question. 10 minutes to get started

Which problem in the world concerns you the most? And why? Share your thoughts briefly.

2. Read Isaiah 7 30 minutes to answer these questions

Look again at 7:1-2

- Which problem concerned Ahaz and Judah the most at that time and why?
- They had a problem with 'hearts' 'shaking'. Now look at Chapter 6 vs. 4 and vs. 10 and also look at Chapter 66:1-2. What strikes you?

Look again at 7:3-9

- What was Isaiah's message for them (in a nutshell)? And what do you learn from that?

Look again at 7:10-17

Ahaz was commanded by the Lord to ask for a sign, so that he might have the faith that he lacked.

- Looking at Ahaz' sinful life, what does this offer of God show us and teach us about God's character?
- If we lack faith, is it a good idea for us as well, to ask God for signs?
- What do you think of Ahaz' response?
- Some hold the view that verse 14 was already fulfilled in Isaiah's time, and found a second fulfilment in the birth of Jesus. Would you agree that that is possible? Why/why not?

Look again at 7:18-25

- These verses describe the consequences of the hardening of their hearts of the king and of the people in unbelief. How would you summarise these consequences?

3. Apply and end with prayer. 15 minutes to make it personal and to pray

Our anxieties have their deepest roots in our innate unbelief, which is both a not beholding of God's glory in faith and an unwillingness to submit and to turn to God for salvation, forgiveness and life. God has given a remedy for this biggest problem of humanity: a beholding of Him, Who was born of a virgin, Whose Name is Immanuel, which means: God is with us. Faith in Christ, his person, his offices, and a frequent meditation on how He reveals the glory of God is the most effective remedy against anxiety. Take some minutes of silence to meditate upon this. As a help, you may also read for yourself: Romans 8:31-39, or Philippians 4:4-7. After the silence, share briefly what you have seen and learnt today and what you want to take with you when you go on. After that, end with a moment of prayer.

4. Digging deeper.

It is good to read II Kings 16 and II Chronicles 28 as historical background information to Isaiah 7