

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

8th Session **THEME: The Gospel according to Isaiah**

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

Sometimes you expect very much of someone or of something. But later on, that same thing or that same one becomes a great burden to you, a source of distress. Take a moment of silence to wonder whether you have experienced this in your life. If so (and if you want to) share this briefly.

2. Read Isaiah 9:2-7 30 minutes to answer these questions

Look again at 9:2-3 For whom the light has come.

- In this passage Isaiah announces a great shining light for people in darkness. Why were they in darkness? Look at 8:19-9:1 for an answer. Then look at 8:5-8 for an answer.
- The people had suffered from very dark times. Of what had they suffered? Look at 9:4-5 for an answer.
- What is the result for that people, when that light shines upon them? Look at 9:3 for an answer.

Isaiah's prophecy has a historical fulfilment (see for instance Matthew 4:12-17).

- Did the light only shine for these people at that time? If not, then for whom as well? What can we learn from that for ourselves?

Look again at 9:4-5 What the light has accomplished.

- The joy that is the result of the light that shines for these people, has a reason. What – in your own words – is that reason, if you look at verses 4-5?

Isaiah's prophecy has a historical fulfilment, because the Assyrian domination would once be ended. 'The day of Midian' reminds of how God once redeemed the Israelites from the Midianites' domination through Gideon. (Judges 6-7).

- Can you think of a deeper fulfilment of 'breaking the yoke'? (Look at Galatians 3:13, 4:4-7, 5:1) What can we learn from that for ourselves?

Look again at 9:6a Who the light is. (NB another Bible studies will follow on 9:6-7)

- What strikes you in this verse?
- Do you know whether Isaiah speaks more often of this Son in his book?

We looked at a passage that spoke about a light that brings joy, breaks a yoke, which is a child, a person. Now read first Numbers 6:25 and then II Corinthians 4:6. What do you learn?

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

Read Ephesians 4:17-20 and 5:7-14. Be silent for some time; share thoughts and end with prayer.

4. Digging deeper.

As a preparation for the next Bible study on this passage, you may meditate on the names that are given to the child, the son, in verse 6.