

Isaiah 1 – Bible Study

For Starters

- Do you find the bible's frequent description of human nature offensive? What would you say to a friend who said, "I don't like that the bible says we are sinful"?

Read Isaiah 1:1-4, 21-23

1. What stands out about how God describes his people?
2. What best captures the heart of sin?
 - Failing God's standards
 - Disobeying and breaking rules
 - Doing immoral actions
 - Rejecting a person
3. Is Sin mainly moral failure or relational betrayal? What is the relationship between these?
4. (a) Why do you think people respond differently to sin?
 - Some feel constant guilt
 - Some only feel it with 'big' sins
 - Others rarely feel guilt, even when they know they've done wrong or are being slack

(b) What might shape those differences? What's your story in this area? (If you're comfortable sharing).

Read 1:11-14

5. Why does God react so strongly to their worship?
6. How can people be active in religion but distant from God? What needs to take place in our hearts/lives for this to occur?
7. What are some warning signs that you are 'going through the motions'?
8. How can we help each other to recognise and avoid this?

Read 1:7-9

9. Why should God judge sin? What other alternatives are there for him, and what would they say about his character?

Read 1:18, 25-26

10. What hope is there for God's wayward and unclean people?
11. Why is God's mercy shocking?
12. Many of us know the gospel so well that it no longer surprises or shocks us. Read the following scriptures and ask, 'What should shock or amaze us here?'
- Heb10:21-22 *Since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²² let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.*
 - 1Jn1:7 *The blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.*
 - Eph1:7 *In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace*
 - Rev1:5 *To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood*
13. Do you think practices like confession (e.g. weekly in church) are important? Why or why not?
14. What helps keep grace from becoming 'normal' instead of astonishing? How does this help us to delight in the Lord so we don't just go through the motions?

Pray together

P.s.

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