

Life Application Notes

Isaiah 9 – (28th October WE)(18th November C and LH)

Speaker: Si Munsie

Introduction

On Sunday, Si looked at the servant songs in Isaiah and explored how Jesus is depicted as this servant who is to come who is the hope for the world. During your time together, we will explore further how Jesus is this servant who is the messiah.

Opening up:

Isaiah is introducing us to this messiah who is to come and it is almost like he's saying: "You'd really get along with this guy – you should meet him!" Which celebrity do you think you would be best friends with and why? If it is hard to narrow down, choose a group of famous people to go for a drink with! Decide between the group who has made the best choice...if you know who they are?!

Islands

The hope that this servant brings is described as being for the islands or coastlands (the far off nations) Isaiah 42 ch 4: "In his teaching the islands will put their hope." John Donne, an author said that no man is an island entire of itself, what do you make of that statement?

Loneliness is prevalent in our culture today and even some of the most connected people can end up feeling extremely lonely because we feel unconnected to people in a meaningful way. What did Jesus say about this situation? What role does 'the church' have to play in this epidemic of loneliness? What is **your** role in this? (Help people to see that 'the church' is actually **them!**)

As a group discuss how people are finding their current season of life, we can be lonely or feel lonely even at our busiest or maybe as a mum at home with little ones and finding time to build meaningful relationships in the midst of life can be a challenge - what practical steps can we take to help each other?

Waiting

Jesus displayed perfect patience and proactivity in his obedience to the Father's will. You could open this discussion by asking a general opening question of: *If you could go 5 years into the future for a day, would you do it?* or if the group are ready to delve deeper straight away then you could ask: *What promises of God are you either waiting for or do you feel you may have missed?* or *What are you waiting for God to do or reveal to you?* Help people to process these things by praying for God's revelation, it may even be that a time of prayer and prophecy may be appropriate – decide where your group are up to for this.

Bruised or smouldering

Ch 42:3 "A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out. In faithfulness he will bring forth justice;"

Are there things in life that have left you feeling bruised – internal things that may or may not have come to the surface? Jesus is unfailing in his love and grace towards us and always has plans for our futures. Are there things in life that have caused us to become a smouldering wick? External things that have come in and caused your fire to dim (stresses at work, family life, circumstances of life). Pray for one another that we would know the affirmation of the Father through what Jesus has already done through the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Finish by looking through chapter 50 vv 7-9 and reminding ourselves that all the things that are true of Jesus here are also true of us. We are not condemned, we will not be disgraced, we will be vindicated, we cannot be accused, the sovereign Lord helps us! Amen!