

Isaiah Session 1 | The Vineyard | Isaiah 5:1-7

These studies are written for small groups but can be adapted for individual use and are intended to accompany our sermon series.

Before God Daily (30 mins)

Encourage each other by sharing stories of how you have seen God at work this week.

Make a plan to contact those who couldn't make it today, perhaps take a moment to *drop them a text*.

Read Isaiah 5:1-7

1. The Vineyard image is one that is used repeatedly in Scripture to speak about God's people (verse 7a) – why do you think it is powerful as an image both in the Bible's original context and also today?
2. Does the 'love-song' (verse 1) stop in this passage? Could the whole passage be counted as part of the same song of love, and what does this say about God's love for his people even amidst judgement and discipline?
3. In verse 2, there is an expectation of good fruit from the planting of the Lord. What does this fruit look like in our lives by analogy, and what does it mean that God might expect good fruit, not just desire it, in our lives?
4. Compare this passage to John 15:1-11. How does Jesus fulfilling what God desired of the Vineyard in our passage mean that it changes how we live in response to it?
5. Similarly, compare this passage to Luke 13:6-9. How is it similar yet different, and how does this speak to us about how God deals with us as his people?

In Community (Allow 12 minutes)

In this section cover the following:

1. Share prayer needs and minister to one another
2. Give any community and HTL notices

On Mission (Allow 12 minutes)

Pray for the missional events at HTL in this season.

Isaiah Session 2 | The Mountain | Isaiah 25:1-12

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Before God Daily (30 mins)

Encourage each other by sharing recent answers to prayer.

Make a plan to contact those who couldn't make it today, perhaps take a moment to drop them a text.

Read Isaiah 25:1-12

1. How could it be a 'wonderful' thing (verse 1) that God has destroyed cities never to be rebuilt (verse 2)? What/whose cities are they, and what might they represent?
2. How does God's past work of deliverance for specific groups of people (verse 4) link to what he is going to do for all his people (verses 7-8)? What does this say about what God's kingdom coming today should look like?
3. Compare verses 7-8 with Revelation 21:1-5. How does this illuminate when Isaiah's prophecy here will come about? Given that this was supposed to be comforting to its original readers and us, what does this say about our ultimate hope?
4. How does verse 9 speak to us when we have been already saved by Jesus? What does this say about our state of salvation? (See also Philippians 2:12 here as well)
5. Going back to verse 1: what do you think it will look like for us to praise God in heaven once we see the full picture of all he has done? How does this speak to us in the here and now?

In Community (Allow 12 minutes)

In this section cover the following:

1. Share prayer needs and minister to one another
2. Give any community and HTL notices

On Mission (Allow 12 minutes)

Pray for the salvation of your neighbours. Share how you might show them the love of Christ.

Isaiah Session 3 | The Servant | Isaiah 49:1-7

These studies are written for small groups but can be adapted for individual use and are intended to accompany our sermon series.

Before God Daily (30 mins)

Encourage each other by sharing how the Lord has spoken to you through scripture this week.

Make a plan to contact those who couldn't make it today, perhaps take a moment to drop them a text.

Read Isaiah 49:1-7

1. This passage is the second 'servant song' in Isaiah, songs which all speak of the same person who is to come. Compare this passage to the first one, (Isaiah 42:1-9) - what new things are revealed about this servant to come in this song?
2. How do various parts of this song fit Jesus as its fulfilment? What is hard to fit into what we know about him, and what might this reveal about him?
3. If this is a prophecy about Jesus, when will verse 7 occur? What does this say about Jesus as the fulfilment of God's mission to the world through Israel?
4. Compare this second servant song with the third and fourth (Isaiah 50:4-11 & Isaiah 52:13-53:12). What comes into increasing focus as the songs progress in Isaiah? What does this say about how the servant will fulfil verse 5-6 of our passage?

In Community (Allow 12 minutes)

In this section cover the following:

1. Share prayer needs and minister to one another
2. Give any community and HTL notices

On Mission (Allow 12 minutes)

Pray for the salvation of the people in your places of work, study and leisure.

Isaiah Session 4 | The Fast | Isaiah 58:1-14

These studies are written for small groups but can be adapted for individual use and are intended to accompany our sermon series.

Before God Daily (30 mins)

Encourage each other by sharing how you have been blessed by the community of God in recent weeks.

Make a plan to contact those who weren't able to make it today, perhaps take a moment to drop them a text.

Read Isaiah 58:1-14

1. How do verses 3-5 warn us about how we fast today? How could it inform the way we at HTL practise our Thursday fasts?
2. Why were verses 6-7 harder for Israel to do than physical fasting? What issue of the heart is being confronted, and what does this say to our walk with Jesus today?
3. How do the various promises of verse 8 onwards directly and literally apply to us today, and how do they not? How might Matthew 5:6-7 help us see how to view them today?
4. Where can you see Jesus in the fulfilment of this passage? How could Jesus have used this passage in Luke 24:27?
5. Take one of the actions towards those in need that God commends in this passage: what does living it out today look like? How does this challenge your walk with Jesus?

In Community (Allow 12 minutes)

In this section cover the following:

1. Share prayer needs and minister to one another
2. Give any community and HTL notices

On Mission (Allow 12 minutes)

Pray for the salvation of your family members who do not yet know Jesus.

Isaiah Session 5 | The Child | Isaiah 9:1-7

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Before God Daily (30 mins)

Encourage each other by sharing your recent experience of being on mission together in this group, or other HTL family, or other Christians generally.

Make a plan to contact those who weren't able to make it today, perhaps take a moment to drop them a text.

Read Isaiah 9:1-7

1. What does the 'nevertheless' of verse 1 refer to? Now have a read of Isaiah 8:19-22 – how does this alter how we view this well-known passage?
2. How does the military victory pointed to in verse 4 (seen in Judges 7) illuminate the reason the child prophesied in this passage brings such joy? How might this translate to Jesus and the victory and freedom he's won for us?
3. What titles of verse 6 give us most hope and joy in today's current circumstances both nationally and in our lives? How do you think we could communicate this to others who need this hope of Jesus?
4. How does verse 7 find partial fulfilment in King David's first successor, King Solomon? (see 1 Kings 4 to help here if needed). How does what happened to Solomon and his kingdom illuminate how much greater Jesus is than any human ruler?
5. As opposed to 'power' or 'love' or even 'compassion', what does it mean for 'the zeal of the Lord' to accomplish what Jesus does as described in this passage? What does this mean for us today?

In Community (Allow 12 minutes)

In this section cover the following:

1. Share prayer needs and minister to one another
2. Give any community and HTL notices

On Mission (Allow 12 minutes)

Pray for the missional events at HTL in this season