

Session 1 Isaiah 1 Handout

Objective: Understand Isaiah's opening indictment and the call to covenantal repentance. Key Verses: Isaiah 1:2–4; 1:10–17; 1:18–20. Background: Isaiah opens with a courtroom summons: God accuses Judah of covenant breach—ritual without righteousness and social injustice. The chapter pairs judgment with an offer of cleansing and restoration. Study Questions

- 1. What is the prophet's opening complaint in 1:2–4?**
- 2. How does Isaiah contrast outward worship and inward behavior in 1:10–17?**
- 3. What practical actions does “learn to do good” (1:17) require?**
- 4. How does 1:18 frame repentance and forgiveness?**
- 5. What covenantal language or assumptions underlie the indictment?**
- 6. How are leaders and the people held responsible in 1:21–23?**

- 7. What images of purification appear in 1:25–27 and what do they mean?**
- 8. How does the chapter link sin with social injustice?**
- 9. Where is hope present amid the judgment language?**
- 10. What one personal or communal change does this chapter demand of you? Cross-References: Micah 6:6–8; Amos 5:21–24; Matthew 23:23. Personal/Application Prompt: Identify one social injustice in your community and one personal habit to change; write a concrete first step.**

Session 2 Isaiah 9 Handout

Objective: Explore the promise of light and the coming ruler's significance. **Key Verses:** Isaiah 9:1–2; 9:6–7.

Background: In the aftermath of conflict, Isaiah promises light for those in darkness and a ruler whose reign brings justice and peace—language later read messianically. **Study Questions**

- 1. How do 9:1–2 contrast darkness and light?**
- 2. What titles are given in 9:6 and what does each imply?**
- 3. How does 9:7 connect to the Davidic covenant?**
- 4. Who might the “child” be in historical and theological readings?**
- 5. What political or military context underlies the promise of deliverance?**
- 6. How do 9:4–5 describe the end of oppression?**
- 7. What expectations does this raise for a messianic king?**

8. How should believers balance present suffering with this future hope?

9. Where does poetic imagery shape theological claims in this chapter?

**10. How could the titles in 9:6 shape worship language today? Cross-References: 2 Samuel 7; Luke 1:32–33; Matthew 4:13–16.
Personal/Application Prompt: Choose one title from 9:6 and write a short prayer using that title for your life or community.**

Session 3 Isaiah 11 Handout

Objective: Study the righteous reign and the Spirit's role in the ideal king. **Key Verses:** Isaiah 11:1–5; 11:6–9.

Background: From the “stump of Jesse” rises a ruler endowed with the Spirit—justice, wisdom, and a peaceable kingdom where predator and prey coexist peacefully. **Study Questions**

- 1. What is the significance of “a shoot from the stump of Jesse”?**
- 2. How are the Spirit's gifts described in 11:2–3?**
- 3. How does the ruler's justice differ from typical human rulers?**
- 4. What theological meaning flows from the peaceable kingdom imagery (11:6–9)?**
- 5. How does 11:10–16 expand the scope to the nations?**
- 6. What role does wisdom play in the king's rule?**

- 7. How does this chapter respond to the failures described in Isaiah 1?**
- 8. What ethical implications follow from 11:4–5?**
- 9. How have Jewish and Christian traditions used this text?**
- 10. How can communities today embody the chapter's vision of justice? Cross-References: Psalm 72; Romans 15:12; Revelation 21:1–4. Personal/Application Prompt: Identify one local injustice and design a Spirit-led action step you could take this month.**

Session 4 Isaiah 24 Handout

Objective: Survey universal judgment and the chapter's cosmic imagery. **Key Verses:** Isaiah 24:1–6; 24:21–23.

Background: Isaiah 24 portrays judgment on the whole earth—cosmic language communicates moral collapse and sets the stage for ultimate restoration. **Study Questions**

- 1. What is the scope of judgment in 24:1–3?**
- 2. How does cosmic language communicate moral crisis?**
- 3. Who experiences fear and why in 24:16–18?**
- 4. What relationship does the chapter draw between judgment and renewal?**
- 5. How does 24:21–23 portray the Lord's final act?**
- 6. What parallels exist with later apocalyptic literature?**

7. How should readers interpret universal judgment ethically?

8. What hope, if any, remains in the chapter?

9. How does this chapter shape eschatological expectation?

10. How might this passage challenge spiritual complacency? Cross-References: Joel 2; Revelation 6–8. Personal/Application Prompt: Reflect on one area where creation suffers because of human choices; commit to one restorative action.

Session 5 Isaiah 40 Handout

Objective: Mark the shift to comfort and God's sovereign care for the weary. **Key Verses:** Isaiah 40:1–5; 40:28–31.

Background: Often called the beginning of Second Isaiah, chapter 40 comforts exiles, proclaims God's incomparable power, and invites trust in the Lord who renews strength.

Study Questions

- 1. How does 40:1–5 begin the theme of comfort?**
- 2. What does “prepare the way” mean in this context?**
- 3. How is God's sovereignty emphasized in 40:12–26?**
- 4. What comfort does 40:28–31 offer the weary?**
- 5. How does the chapter contrast idols and the true God?**
- 6. Why is this chapter a turning point in Isaiah?**
- 7. How does the language of God's greatness shape faith?**

8. What pastoral uses does this chapter have?

9. How does the chapter invite trust amid exile or hardship?

10. Which verse would you memorize and why?
Cross-References: Psalm 147; Matthew 3:3; Mark 1:3. Personal/Application Prompt: Write a short prayer asking God to renew your strength this week, using language from 40:28–31.

Session 6 Isaiah 42 Handout

Objective: Introduce the Servant motif and the servant's mission of justice and restoration. **Key Verses:** Isaiah 42:1–4; 42:6–7. **Background:** The first explicit servant song in Second Isaiah presents a chosen servant who brings justice gently and opens blind eyes—mission to Israel and the nations. **Study Questions**

- 1. Who is the “servant” in 42:1 and what mission is given?**
- 2. How is gentleness described in 42:2–3?**
- 3. What is the servant's role for the nations in 42:6–7?**
- 4. How does 42:8–9 confront idolatry?**
- 5. What does “a new thing” (42:9) imply for Israel?**
- 6. How does justice feature in the servant's work?**
- 7. Where is hope for the oppressed in this chapter?**

8. How do the servant songs develop the servant's identity?

9. How might this chapter inform mission theology today?

10. What personal response does the chapter call for? Cross-References: Isaiah 49; Matthew 12:18–21; Acts 8:26–40. Personal/Application Prompt: Identify one way you can embody the servant's gentleness in a local outreach this month.

Session 7 Isaiah 43 Handout

Objective: Emphasize God's redeeming presence and the promise of a new exodus. **Key Verses:** Isaiah 43:1–3; 43:18–19. **Background:** God reassures Israel of identity and deliverance—"Do not remember the former things" introduces a promise of new acts of salvation. **Study Questions**

- 1. How does God identify and comfort Israel in 43:1–3?**
- 2. What does "I will be with you" promise practically?**
- 3. How does 43:18–19 reframe memory and newness?**
- 4. What is the "new thing" God will do?**
- 5. How does the chapter balance judgment and redemption?**
- 6. What witness is Israel called to be in 43:10–12?**
- 7. How does God's sovereignty over nations appear here?**

8. How can believers testify to God's acts today?

9. What role does water imagery play in this chapter?

10. How does this chapter shape hope in exile or hardship? Cross-References: Exodus 14; Psalm 77; John 10:27–30. Personal/Application Prompt: Share a brief testimony of a “new thing” God has done in your life; write one sentence to share with the group.

Session 8 Isaiah 49 Handout

Objective: Explore the servant's global mission and the promise of restoration for Israel. **Key Verses:** Isaiah 49:1–6; 49:8–13. **Background:** The servant speaks of being formed for a mission that extends beyond Israel to the nations; God promises restoration and comfort for Zion. **Study Questions**

- 1. How does 49:1–3 present the servant's calling and identity?**
- 2. What does 49:6 say about the servant's mission to the nations?**
- 3. How do 49:8–13 promise restoration and comfort?**
- 4. What emotional tones appear in 49:14–16?**
- 5. How does God's remembrance function theologically in this chapter?**
- 6. How does the servant's identity develop compared with earlier servant songs?**
- 7. What pastoral comforts are offered to the discouraged?**

8. How does this chapter connect to earlier promises in Isaiah?

9. What implications for evangelism and mission emerge?

10. Which verse most reshapes your view of God and why? Cross-References: Isaiah 42; Luke 2:32; Acts 13:47. Personal/Application Prompt: Draft a one-sentence mission statement for life inspired by 49:6.

Session 9 Isaiah 52 Handout

Objective: Prepare for the suffering servant and celebrate the good news of release. **Key Verses:** Isaiah 52:7–10.

Background: A call to awaken Zion and proclaim the good news—beautiful feet bring tidings of peace; the chapter sets the stage for the servant's suffering and vindication. **Study Questions**

1. What does “awake, awake” (52:1) call Israel to do?

2. How is the good news described in 52:7–10?

3. What liberation themes appear in this chapter?

4. How does 52 prepare readers for chapter 53?

5. What is the role of the messenger in 52:7?

6. How does Zion's restoration contrast with exile imagery?

7. What liturgical or worship uses fit this chapter?

8. How does the chapter portray God's triumph over enemies?

9. How might this text encourage proclamation in your context?

10. What personal response does it demand of you? Cross-References: Romans 10:15; Luke 2:10–11; Psalm 98. Personal/Application Prompt: Compose a two-line proclamation you could share publicly that echoes 52:7.

Session 10 Isaiah 53 Handout

Objective: Unpack the Suffering Servant passage and its theological and pastoral significance. Key Verses: Isaiah 53:3–6; 53:10–12. Background: Isaiah 53 presents a figure who suffers vicariously for others—rejected, afflicted, yet bearing sins and bringing healing. This chapter is central to both Jewish and Christian reflection on suffering and atonement. Study Questions

- 1. How is the “suffering servant” described in 53:3–4?**
- 2. What does vicarious suffering mean in 53:5–6?**
- 3. How do 53:7–9 portray the servant’s innocence and silence?**
- 4. What is the servant’s outcome in 53:10–12?**
- 5. How have Jewish and Christian readings historically differed on this chapter?**
- 6. What theological claims about atonement and substitution appear here?**

7. How does this chapter shape pastoral care for those who suffer?

8. What ethical demands follow from substitutionary language?

9. How does the servant's vindication inform hope for the oppressed?

10. Which verse most challenges your theology and why? Cross-References: Psalm 22; Matthew 27; 1 Peter 2:21–25; Hebrews 9–10. Personal/Application Prompt: Spend five minutes in silent reflection on 53:4–5, then write one sentence about how this passage comforts or challenges you.