



GROUP STUDY GUIDE

WEEK OF DECEMBER 8, 2024 | THE PROMISE FORETOLD

Before you discuss:

Before diving into this week's study, take a moment to understand the background and significance of the book of Isaiah. Isaiah, one of the major prophets, spoke to the people of Judah during a time of moral and spiritual decline. His writings include powerful prophecies about judgment, hope and the coming Messiah. For a deeper understanding, consider watching The Bible Project's video on Isaiah or reading an introduction to Isaiah from a trusted study Bible.

As we are in the season of Advent, let's explore the writings of Isaiah and how he points us to Jesus and God's redemptive plan in a time when we are looking forward to the coming of our Lord and Savior.

WARM-UP QUESTION

What is your favorite Christmas tradition, and how does it remind you of God's faithfulness?

DISCUSS

Read [Isaiah 7:14](#)

- What stands out to you about the promise of a virgin conceiving and bearing a son? How does this prophecy reflect God's miraculous nature?
- Read [Matthew 1:22-23](#). How does this passage in Matthew connect directly to Isaiah's prophecy? Why is it significant that Jesus' birth fulfilled this Old Testament prophecy?
- What does the name Immanuel ("God with us") mean to you personally during this Advent season?

Read [Isaiah 9:6-7](#)

- How does the promise of a coming ruler who will establish justice and righteousness bring you hope today?
- Read [Luke 1:32-33](#). How does the angel's message to Mary echo Isaiah's prophecy? What does this connection teach us about God's plan?

Read [Isaiah 53:1-6](#)

- How does Isaiah's prophecy about the suffering servant help us understand the purpose of Jesus' coming?
- Verse 5 speaks of Jesus being pierced for our rebellion and crushed for our sins. How does this prophecy deepen your gratitude for Jesus' sacrifice?
- Read [1 Peter 2:24-25](#). How does Peter use Isaiah's prophecy to explain what Jesus accomplished for us on the cross? Why is it important to connect the birth of Jesus to His ultimate purpose in His death and resurrection?



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Read [Isaiah 40:3-5](#)

- What is the significance of preparing the way for the Lord? How can you practically live this out today?
- Read [Matthew 3:1-3](#). How does John the Baptist's ministry fulfill Isaiah's words? Why was it important for John to prepare the way for Jesus?

Reflect on Isaiah as a Whole

- Why is it important to understand the Old Testament prophecies about Jesus as part of the Christmas story?
- How does studying these prophecies give you a deeper appreciation for God's faithfulness and His plan of salvation?

RESPOND

- Based on what you just discussed, what do you think God is prompting you to do in response? How can you live in the hope of Jesus' coming this week?
- Pray together as a group, thanking God for His faithfulness in fulfilling His promises and for the gift of Jesus. Ask Him to help you reflect His love and hope during this Advent season.