

## Small Groups – Jesus

### WEEK 1

#### Read Isaiah 42.1-7

**Question** - do you know what the Old Testament has to say about Jesus? Think about, discuss and then list those things..

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The Old Testament has loads to say about Jesus, including many 'Messianic Prophecies'. What does this mean? Well, quite simply prophecies about the coming Messiah (the 'Anointed One' - the 'Saviour').

Isaiah is one of the main books that prophecies much about Jesus. So let's look through Isaiah 42 and see what we can learn.

**Read** Isaiah 42.1 and list the characteristics of Jesus and the 6 things that we can learn from it (answers below)

- a. -----
- b. -----
- c. -----
- d. -----
- e. -----
- f. -----

**Challenge** - When you look at these characteristics of Jesus, can you say that your life reflects any or all of these?

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**Question** - Where in the New Testament do we find evidence of these things being true of Jesus? (Answers are below)

- a. That Jesus was a servant \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- b. That Jesus was upheld (supported) by God \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- c. That Jesus was chosen by God \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- d. That God delighted in Jesus \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- e. That God's Spirit was in Jesus \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- f. That Jesus brought justice to the nations \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

**Question** - Where in the New Testament do we find evidence of these things being available to / true of you?

- a. That you are a servant \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- b. That you are upheld (supported) by God \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- c. That you are chosen by God \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- d. That God delights in you \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- e. That God's Spirit is in you \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- f. That God's called you to bring justice to the nations \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

**Question** - Can you say these things about yourself and your life / actions. If not, how can you change?

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Interestingly, verse 2 says, *"He will not shout or cry out, or raise his voice in the streets."* **Question** - what do you think this means?

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To me, this means that Jesus didn't feel the need to draw attention to himself, or shout loudly for his actions and words to speak volumes and attract attention. Maybe some preachers need to hear this!

In verse 3, the prophet Isaiah writes: *"A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out."*

**Question** - can you think of times in your life and in the life of Christians you know where God has brought you through a hard time? How did God do this? Was it through gentleness, kindness, loving support? How can we help people through whose faith or life has been damaged?

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**Challenge** - God is not about to break a damaged faith, or a weakened faith. If you feel in that place today, hold on to God and know that he will bring you through. He won't break you, he won't snuff out your light. Instead, he will gently and lovingly bring you back to life, and let your light shine once again.

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### Answers to Isaiah 42 questions:

- a. Answer: He is a servant
- b. Answer: He's upheld by God
- c. Answer: He's chosen by God
- d. Answer: God finds delight in him
- e. Answer: God's Spirit is in him
- f. (Answer: He'll bring justice to the nations)

### Answers to questions about Jesus:

- a. Answer: Matthew 20.28
- b. Answer: Matthew 3.17, Mark 1.11
- c. Answer: John 3.16
- d. Answer: Matthew 3.17, Mark 1.11
- e. Answer: Matthew 3.16, Mark 1.10, John 1.32
- f. Answer: Matthew 28.19 and the spread of the gospel

## WEEK 2

### Read Isaiah 42.1-7

In verses 3-4 we read: *"In faithfulness he will bring forth justice; he will not falter or be discouraged till he establishes justice on earth. In his law the islands will put their hope."*

Have you suffered injustice, felt discouraged, or had people let you down? Yep, of course you have. So have I. But God is very different. He is a faithful God.

**Question** - what does 'faithful' mean to you?

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The Amplified Bible translates this as: *"He will not fail or become weak or be crushed and discouraged till He has established justice in the earth; and the islands and coastal regions shall wait hopefully for Him and expect His direction and law."*

God is our strength, if we are Christians. God knows what is going on and God has a perfect plan for your life, and for the world. It's hard to see that in an imperfect and damaged world. But God has a plan for justice in the earth - and it will come through Jesus, when he returns one day. This is our hope.

**Pray** - right now, it would be good to pray for our world, for peace, for justice, for God's people who are persecuted. Pray for all who suffer and are abused.

**Ask yourself and God this question** - how can I, as a Christian, make more of a difference in this world? Expect God's answer, and then in his timing, take action.

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In verse 5, we have a summary of much of what God is.

*"Thus says God the Lord--He Who created the heavens and stretched them forth, He Who spread (created) abroad the earth and that which comes out of it, He Who gives breath to the people on it and spirit to those who walk in it."*

Read it from the Amplified Version (below). Then write down what God says he has done and is:

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_
- d. \_\_\_\_\_
- e. \_\_\_\_\_

Finally, verses 6 and 7 tell us more about Jesus.

***"I, the LORD, have called you in righteousness. I will take hold of your hand."***

What is righteousness? How can we be made righteous?

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***"I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people and a light for the Gentiles.."***

See Acts 13.46-48 and read what Paul said..

***"..to open eyes that are blind, to free captives from prison and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness."***

We know from the Gospels that Jesus spent his time doing this and much more.

Now read Mark 16.15-20. Is this true of the Gospel message today, through the witness of the church, through your personal witness.

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**Prayer to end** - Father God, thank you for Jesus. Thank you for sending your one and only son, to die for us, so that by faith we can be made right with you. Lord, thank you for your Word. Thank you that it brings light, helping us get right with you and grow in our discipleship with you. Lord, please speak to us this coming week about how we can change to be more like you, so that the world may see and know Jesus. Amen.