

Blandford and Langton Home Groups

Meeting for Week Beginning 2 December 2007

Focus At Home “The Bible - The Big Picture”

“Isaiah”

The Overall Aim of this Study:

- To see that God’s plan involved reflecting on the journey of the Old Testament.
 - That God’s plan of salvation put things into place for Jesus’ arrival.
 - That there is a sense of Jesus is throughout the Old Testament.
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- Welcome

What are your holiday plans for next year?

- Worship

Read Isaiah 43:1-13 and revel in the joy of knowing God has redeemed you and has a plan for your life. Praise him!!

- Word

See “*The One Stop Bible Guide*” (TOSBG) Pages 62-63 and “The Story So Far”.
It may also help to read Tim’s sermon on the topic.

- In the series so far on the Old Testament, which themes have most struck you about what the Old Testament says about God and our relationship with him?
- In what ways have you sensed preparation for Jesus’ arrival on the scene?
- What would have happened if, instead of sending, say, Moses or Gideon, God had sent Jesus? In other words, the Bible tells us that “the appointed time” was the time of Caesar Augustus - what if it had been 1000 or 1400 years earlier? What would have been the difference?

The Old Testament is the story of God putting into place all the plans for Jesus to come, so that these themes would all be able to come together in one person. Isaiah, writing approximately 600 years before Jesus, draws the themes together in one book.

Read Isaiah 1:11-20

- What does Isaiah say that God hates (vv11-16)? List them!
- What does Isaiah say that God wants (vv 17)?
- What sort of relationship does God want? (vv18-20) ?
- What does this say about the understanding the people have of sacrifice?
- What does it say about their relationship with God?

Isaiah 7 and 38 speak of God’s desire that the nation should trust in him and him alone, rather than human might.

- In what other things do we put our trust?
- What does this say about our relationship with God?
- How is this similar to the people of Isaiah’s time?

Read Isaiah 40:1-9

- What is the promise of God about?

Read Isaiah 11:1-9

Isaiah paints a picture of the Kingdom of God that the Messiah would bring.

- What are the principle features of the Kingdom?
- In what ways does it differ from a human Kingdom?
- In what ways is it similar?
- How much of this Kingdom can we experience in this life?
- Can we experience it more? How?

Isaiah has a series of stunningly accurate prophecies about the nature and personality, as well as the mission of Jesus. You can read some of them on the accompanying sheet - but remember, we only recognise them through the benefit of hindsight. If you have the time, look through the verses and describe which aspects of Jesus life are being portrayed - and try to think how the contemporary hearers of Isaiah's prophecy would have received them. These were the same prophecies that those in Jesus' time would have received.

- Is it reasonable that people in Jesus' time did not recognise him for who he was/is?
- In what ways?

- **Works**

- ❖ Are there times when you struggle to see Jesus for who he is?
- ❖ Why do you think that is?
- ❖ How do you resolve those times?

Share with each other about these times and pray for one another.

- **Next Meeting**

Please note that next week (12th December) ...

... is Christmas Late Night Shopping in Blandford
and we shall be aiming to put on the usual things
in and around Church - but we need your help!

19th December - Social Evening

A Christmas Party and an opportunity
to invite friends along?