



LESSON 24

ISAIAH 61-64

1. In what ways is God stirring in you a new passion for justice through last week's study of **Isaiah 58-60**? What verse(s) inspired you?
2. Read through **Isaiah 61-64**, which contains three poems about the Anointed One, or Messiah (**61:1-3**, **61:10-62:7**, and **63:1-14**) and ends with Isaiah's prayer. Note the statements about the future ("I will . . ."; "They will . . ."). Now read **Luke 4:16-21** and imagine that you were in the Nazareth synagogue on the day Jesus declared that He fulfilled Isaiah's words. What thoughts would have crossed your mind after hearing Jesus' declaration?
3. a) Who do you think is speaking in **Isaiah 61:1-3** and to whom is the proclamation of good news addressed?

b) Which aspects of the good news do you most relate to and why?

4. Read through **V4-9**. What will God's people be called to do in the latter days and how will God reward them?

5. Read through all of **Isaiah 61:10-62:12**.

a) With salvation comes transformation and new names. Write out all the names given to Israel in the passage. Which ones stand out to you and why?

b) What transformation or new name do you long for? Ask your group to pray for God to do His work in you.

6. **Isaiah 63** starts out with a significant shift in tone. What is the heart of the message in Isaiah's poem (**V1-6**)? See **Revelation 19:13-15** for additional insight.

7. In **Isaiah 63:7-10**, Isaiah outlines the history of the relationship between God and Israel. What are the main parts of this tumultuous story?

8. What questions are God's people asking Him in **VII-19**? What underlying assumptions are revealed through their questioning?
9. As you read through the remainder of the prayer in **Ch. 64**, listen for the repeated requests for God to "come down" and be near His people. What has caused their separation from God (**V5-7**)? In what situation are you longing for God to come near?
10. Reflecting on who God is: **My Joy (Sim Chati)**

In times when life is hard, it seems unthinkable to expect joy. Fortunately, joy is a gift from our loving Lord, not an emotion that we have to muster up ourselves. The Anointed One proclaims "**The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. . . to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.**" **Isaiah 61:1a, 3b**. Ask God, the **Giver of Joy**, to enter into your hard situations and pour out His oil of joy.

NAME

PRAYER REQUEST