

Opening Prayer

When fear and doubts cripple our lives,

Lord, give us hope.

When uncertainly and unbelief are all around,

Lord, give us courage.

When faith has gone and nothing makes sense,

Lord, draw us near.

Loving God, your word tells us that the Bible stories are written

to help us believe. Keep us reading them, stay near to us.

Don't let us go, increase our faith, help us to keep our eyes on you.

In Jesus' name, we ask our prayer.

Amen.

Read Isaiah 9. 2-7

Isaiah promises the people of Jerusalem a future king from the line of David, who will be the Messiah.

Questions for discussion: -

1. Why should the people rejoice?
2. What are the attributes of this promised king?
3. Reread v7. Has this promise been fulfilled yet? If so, what is the evidence?

Read Isaiah 52.13 – 53.13

This is the fourth of the 'Servant Songs' in Isaiah 40-55, the later writer. It is not clear whether these refer to an individual or a community.

Questions for discussion: -

1. How might the Jews in Babylon understand this passage to refer to them?
2. What aspects of this servant rule out the possibility that it is referring to the Messiah?
3. In what ways has the church identified the servant with Jesus?

Questions for personal reflection: -

Our readings tell how God promised to send a Messiah and a servant.

1. How do you see these promises being fulfilled in Jesus?
2. In which ways has the church continued being a servant king?
3. How has the church failed to be a servant king?
4. How are we to be servants to the world?

A personal prayer

My life is fulfilled
when you have a future of hope.
My joy is complete
when you have a community of love.
My purpose is achieved
when you have an assured peace.
My work is done
when you have a destiny with meaning.

I do not need long life,
lots of laughter,
rich rewards,
or recognition;
just the satisfaction
of serving the purpose,
being true to the values
and faithful to the One
who is my Servant Saviour.



Mid-week Session 3



Isaiah – Faithful Servant

The third theme in our study of the book of Isaiah is “Faithful Servant”. The church has adopted the two passages for study to refer to Jesus. Still, for Isaiah, the first refers to the Messiah and the second to a servant, which some scholars interpret as a personification of Israel.