



# NO MORE GLOOM

## GOING DEEPER

### DISCUSSION GUIDE

November 27, 2016

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## Discussion Guide

### No More War

#### CONNECTING:

45 MINUTES

(THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS ARE INTENDED TO PROVIDE YOUR GROUP WITH A WAY OF CONNECTING WITH ONE ANOTHER SO THAT YOU MIGHT PARTNER IN THE WORK GOD IS DOING IN YOUR LIVES.)

- In what ways did God move in your life this week? In what ways did you respond to him?
- What was your biggest challenge this week? In what ways, if any, did you invite God into this challenge?
- How honest have you been with us? (Graciously thank group members for their honesty if they state they have held back.)

#### OVERVIEW OF THE BOOK OF ISAIAH

The book of Isaiah is quite possibly the best theological summary in the Bible. It has often been called the Romans of the Old Testament. Within the book, the LORD... the faithful, awesome,

covenant God of Jacob, with whom no other god compares... is revealed as the judge and justifier of His people. He is revealed as holy, set apart from all other authorities and He alone has the wisdom and resources to enable us to live in ways that will help us and the whole world thrive. The LORD is seen both dealing with rebellion, and welcoming all who humbly come to Him to learn His ways and walk in them. It is a book that connects judgement on sin, and hope for the coming messiah who will set things right and will rule in a kingdom which brings blessing to Israel and the world. The LORD is revealed as having the power and grace to make the impossible possible. In this book, He provides grace for a rebellious people so that they might be in relation with Him and expects them to humbly respond to His grace by learning from Him how to live rightly. In this way, the LORD is seen as working with both justice in discipline and amazing grace through the provision of a way back into right relationship with Him. In Isaiah the LORD uses both discipline and grace to eventually bring about a kingdom focused exclusively on His authority, made up inclusively of all nations who

have hearts which desire to learn to live and love as He does.

## ISAIAH 2.2

### *THE MOUNTAIN OF THE LORD TAKES PROMINENCE*

In this verse the mountain of the LORD'S temple is portrayed as taking prominence over all other mountains. An important cultural/historical note, is that at the time, the high mountain tops were viewed as sacred places by the surrounding cult religions. These mountains would have been places of sacrifice and worship to other gods. So this verse sees the sacred place of meeting the LORD is placed far above all other gods worshiped, and all nations will long to worship the LORD.

- \*Sacrificing on high mountains is still practiced even today. In San Miguel, Guatemala, where our missionary Kathi Archer lives, some of the native Achi people practice their traditional religion, and make sacrifices in the high mountains surrounding the town.

## ISAIAH 2.3

### *TEACHABLE HEARTS AND KINGDOM EXPANSE*

Notice in this verse that people from around the world are not forced to follow God in some fascist regime. Peoples have a contrite and humble heart attitude that internally desires to draw near and learn how to live from the LORD...this is not a coerced response to an angry God. This response is more than just an individual pursuit – they are encouraging each other to go together to the mountain of the Lord to learn a new way of living. In response to these desires and this singular pursuit, these humble and teachable people will return to where they are from and the law of love will go out from Zion, and God's word will go out from Jerusalem to be a blessing to the whole world.

## Isaiah 2.4-5

### *THE LORD OF JUSTICE AND PEACE, AND A PEOPLE RESPONDING IN HARMONY WITH HIM*

In other passages in Isaiah (like ch. 9), we know

that the Messiah, Jesus, will be given authority to reign in this new kingdom – and that he will be the one to rule as the Prince of Peace. This verse is not only about the wisdom and goal of Jesus' reign, it also casts hope for the response of people. People will trust him, find rest in his authority and reign. It will be a return to the experience in the garden of Eden, a return to living as God always intended... harmony between God, people, and creation.

### Questions to Consider:

- What words or phrases from this scripture or chat resonate with you? What might be the reason for this?
- What does this passage reveal about who God is; as he is patiently taking humanity towards an experience where people know of His glory and internally desire to know and follow His ways?
- How does this view of God contrast with how you think He relates to you and works in your life?
- How does this kingdom/experience of peace and absence of violence offer you hope?
- How might you describe your current desire to humbly learn how to live from God in all aspects of life?
- How might God be inviting you to learn his ways and walk in them, so that His life and peace might be more fully experienced right now?



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