Small Group Guide: Isaiah 7-9
'*God With Us' - God's Heart. Know It. Live It.* (Part 2)
11/08/26

Icebreaker Questions:

- Think of a time you were in a difficult situation and tried everything you could think of before finally asking for help. What made it hard to ask sooner?
- When you hear the name "Immanuel — God with us," what comes to mind?

Key Takeaways:

- *God's invitation to trust is often an exposure of where our trust actually lies* — King Ahaz refused God's offer of a sign not because he was godly, but because he had already made his own arrangements. His religious-sounding excuse covered up a heart that wasn't actually trusting God at all.
- *God's purposes are never derailed by human failure or difficult circumstances* — Even as Jerusalem faced invasion and judgment, God preserved a remnant and continued moving toward His ultimate plan, the coming of Jesus, Immanuel, God with us.
- *Jesus is the fulfillment of everything Isaiah pointed toward* — The child promised in Isaiah 7 and 9 was not just a sign for Ahaz's generation. It was a prophecy pointing to Jesus—the Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace—whose kingdom will never end.
- *We are called not just to survive in this world, but to represent God's kingdom within it* — Through faith in Jesus, God's Spirit lives in us, and we become agents of His peace, justice, compassion, and hope in the world around us.

Discussion Questions:

1. Read Isaiah 7:11-13 and 2 Kings 16:5-9. Ahaz looked like he trusted God. He was busy, active, and even quoted Scripture (Deuteronomy 6:16), but he was quietly taking matters into his own hands—he was doing everything except trusting God. What does 'doing everything except trusting God' look like in everyday life?
   a) Why is God so often our last resort once all our other options have run out, instead of our first resort? How would you honestly answer that question for yourself?
   b) Is there an area of your life where you are using responsible language to disguise a lack of genuine trust in God?
2. Read Isaiah 7:17-20. The Assyrians, the people Ahaz was trusting for protection, eventually turned against Jerusalem (under God's sovereign control). Have you ever experienced putting your confidence in something or someone that ultimately let you down? What did that teach you?
   a) What practical difference would it make in a current situation you are facing if you went to God first — before making a plan, before reacting, before trying to fix it?
3. God works in different ways through difficult circumstances: He might change our circumstances, or He changes us through our circumstances, or He uses situations we would never have chosen to accomplish things we could never have imagined. Which of these has been most true in your own experience? Which is hardest to accept?
4. Read Isaiah 8:1-10. The Assyrian army was described as a flooding river, overwhelming Jerusalem. Yet in the middle of that terrifying image, God dropped a single word into the prophecy: Immanuel. The land still belonged to Him, and no invading army, political failure, or human betrayal could alter that reality. What circumstance in your life right now feels like floodwaters rising? How does the reminder that God remains sovereign over that situation change the way you are looking at it?
5. Read Isaiah 8:12–14. God is both a safe place for those who trust Him and a frustration to those who don't. What do you instinctively reach for when life becomes difficult or frightening?
   a) What does it mean practically for God to be your 'safe place' in a situation you are currently navigating?

6. Read Isaiah 9:1-7 and Matthew 4:12-17. Isaiah wrote these words in a season of darkness, surrounded by military threat and political failure, yet he described a great light dawning on people who had been walking in deep darkness. Matthew recognized that this was exactly what happened when Jesus began His ministry in Galilee. Jesus was the answer to the deepest crisis of all: humanity's separation from God. In what ways are you tempted to look to political or church leaders, social movements, or cultural change to accomplish what only God's kingdom can ultimately achieve?
   a) Consider the four titles given to Jesus: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Which of those four titles/roles means the most to you personally right now, and why?

7. These chapters of Isaiah present us with three practical challenges:
   - Stop hedging your bets—put your trust fully in God.
   - Stop allowing your circumstances to determine your confidence in God.
   - Start allowing God to build His kingdom through your life.

   Which one feels most personally relevant to you right now, and what would a first step look like?

8. Read Isaiah 7:9, Galatians 2:20, and Romans 13:1. God's final word to King Ahaz through Isaiah was both a warning and an invitation. We live in a world full of reasons to be afraid: political change, personal uncertainty, broken relationships, and unanswered questions press in from every direction. Where do you most need to stop hedging your bets and place your full confidence in God? What would standing firm in faith look like in that specific area of your life?

Prayer:

- Ask God to reveal the places where you have been trusting in your own plans, resources, or other people rather than in Him.
- Surrender a specific circumstance or fear to God. Declare together that His purposes will prevail.
- Ask God to make your group a community that reflects His kingdom—bringing peace, justice, compassion, and hope to the people around you.