Small Group Guide: Isaiah 58:10-12
***Becoming People Who Bring Transformation - Part 1,* 10/25/26**

Key Takeaways:
- God isn't satisfied with religious behavior when our hearts and lives remain unchanged.
- Genuine faith expresses itself through practical love, generosity, and concern for others.
- As we give ourselves to God's purposes, we can trust Him to guide, strengthen, and sustain us.
- God wants to use His people to bring restoration wherever there is brokenness.
- We bring restoration not only to others but to ourselves when we live in a genuine relationship with God.

Icebreaker Question:
- Think about a time when someone showed up for you in a practical, tangible way during a difficult season. What did that mean to you, and what did it reveal to you about the person who helped?

Discussion Questions:
1. Read Isaiah 58:1-5. The Israelites appeared devoted—they fasted, prayed, worshiped—but their hearts were far from God. In what ways do you think that temptation shows up in our own lives today? What does 'going through the motions' look like for you personally?
2. The Israelites "wanted God on their side, but not on their case." What do you think the difference is between those two postures? Which one more honestly describes where you are right now?
3. Why do you think it is so easy to separate our spiritual practices from how we treat people in everyday life? What makes that disconnect so persistent?
4. Read Isaiah 58:6-7 and Matthew 25:34-40. Isaiah describes the kind of life God is calling His people to: standing against injustice, feeding the hungry, sheltering the poor, clothing the vulnerable. Which of these feels most natural to you? Which feels most challenging, and why? Who in your immediate world—your neighborhood, workplace, or family—is hungry, lonely, or overlooked? What is one practical thing you could do this week that would cost you something personally?
5. Read Isaiah 58:8-9. The pointing finger—the gesture of blame, accusation, and judgment—must be put away before the light can rise. A pointing finger and an open hand can't exist at the same time, you can't simultaneously accuse someone and offer them help. The transformation God is calling His people to is not merely stopping the accusation—it is replacing the gesture entirely with an open hand of generosity and welcome. Why do you think God connects putting away the pointing finger of blame and accusation with allowing His light to shine through us? What would it look like to replace a judgmental attitude with an open hand of grace, generosity, and welcome in a relationship or situation in your life?
6. Read Ephesians 4:30 and 1 Thessalonians 5:19. Self-centered living 'grieves and quenches the Spirit of God.' What do you think a life that actively makes room for the Spirit looks like in practical, day-to-day terms?
7. Read Isaiah 58:10-12 and Matthew 5:14-16. God promises three things to those who trust Him and devote themselves to His purposes: becoming a light in the darkness, experiencing God's provision, and becoming builders of what is broken. Which of these three resonates most with you right now, and why? Where has God specifically placed you — in your neighborhood, workplace, or family — to be a source of light? Are there ways you have been keeping that light hidden out of fear, comfort, or indifference?
8. Read Isaiah 58:10-11, Philippians 4:19 and 2 Corinthians 9:6-11. Are you genuinely trusting God to provide for you and your family as you follow His leading, or are you waiting until you feel financially secure before you give generously? Where is fear of scarcity holding you back from obedience?
9. Read Philemon 1:6. It's in sharing and living out our faith that we discover how good our faith actually is. Have you ever experienced how serving others or stepping out in obedience deepened your own experience of God? Share what that was like.
10. Read Isaiah 58:13-14. This chapter describes the difference between dutifully obeying God and truly enjoying God. Where would you place yourself on that spectrum right now? What do you think would need to change for you to move from duty toward delight?
11. Read Isaiah 58:12, Revelation 21:1-5 and Romans 8:19-21. How does understanding restoration as the heart of God's mission change the way you see your everyday life and interactions? What

broken things around you might God be calling you to help rebuild—a relationship, a family, a community, a person's faith?

Prayer:

- Pray Isaiah 58:10-12 over your community. Pray these verses back to God as a declaration of what you are asking Him to make true of your church, your neighborhood, and your city.
- Ask God to move your group beyond faith that is merely practiced to faith that brings His light, life, and restoration to the world around you.