Icebreaker:
Judah is described as a rebellious nation. Did you ever rebel against your parents? Curfew? Car? Boyfriend or girlfriend? If you have children, have your children rebelled against you?

1. Prophets were often despised because they shed light on those things that did not reflect God’s kingdom. Can you recall a time when someone told you something that you knew was true (immediately or in time) but initially just made you angry at them?

2. When you stray from God, is your impression that God is mad at you, or that God is sad at you? If you tend to see God as being mad, does seeing God as sad change your perspective?

3. God is suffering at the rebellion of his people. If you have parented, been a coach/teacher, or been an employer, have you suffered the rebellion of others against you? What was that like?

4. The Lord says in verse 11, “I have had enough” of the people’s sacrifices, and God does not delight in the sacrifices. What does this say about God and the people of Judah and Jerusalem? Does it say anything about what we bring to God today?

5. In verse 17, Isaiah says to “seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow.” How does ZPC do as a church body (or we as individuals or families) in these areas? What are current situations in our community and world where ZPC might seek to do justice? What are the risks involved in seeking justice?

6. Read Isaiah 1:18-20 in the NRSV. What is the relationship between our arguing with the LORD and our sins becoming snow-white? Do you ever argue with God? What often results from such arguments?

Homework:
Find someone this week who does not have power (i.e. an immigrant or homeless person) and listen to their story. What did you learn?

Prayer:
As you pray for one another, please pray for the following needs in our church family:

prayer requests

- Prayers of healing for Loretta Bowsher.

> [The following are from ZPC’s prayer calendar, which is available at the Welcome Center or at zpc.org/prayer.]

- Pray for our facilities team to be fruitful in providing for the needs of our church and its physical structures.

- Pray for the Spain Mission Team as they spread the Gospel and strengthen the relationships they have in Spain.