

Session 1

Laying The Foundation: An Overview of Isaiah's Four Servant Songs

Leader's Guide (Video 24 minutes)

Complete PowerPoint presentation available: email request to gellul@sbcglobal.net

Warm up questions pre-video: (15 minutes)

Read question # 3 of Luther's Small Catechism

- ❖ Following question #3 in the Small Catechism—"Why do we call the Bible the "Holy Scripture?"—who wrote the Old and New Testaments?
 - The Bible is God's own inerrant word and truth expressed through the words of his chosen writers.
- ❖ Is the Old Testament a history book of the plight of God's people Israel or is the purpose of the Old Testament more than that?
 - Through God's word, written in Scripture, we learn the history of the people of Israel; both God's people of faith "Israel" and those who rejected God and followed false gods in the land of Israel.
 - The Old Testament is the self-revelation of God; his loving grace and mercy that he chose to bestow on those who followed him in faith.
 - The Old Testament point us to God's promise to come, and the New Testament shows us God's promise fulfilled in Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

Read Exodus 3:13–14

- ❖ According to Exodus 3:13–14 what is the proper name of God?
 - I AM
 - God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM."
 - Yahweh – "I AM" – The vocalization of the name of God composed of the Hebrew consonants YHWH.
- ❖ What is the work of a prophet?
 - Greek word for "one who announces."
 - One who speaks on behalf of God to God's people.

Read Isaiah 42:6

- ❖ What does it mean to be called in righteousness?
 - Righteousness is a gift we receive from God.
 - It's not what we do, but our faith in what God has done already.
 - We are receivers of righteousness through our faith in the promise of God
- Genesis 15:6 - And Abram believed the LORD and the LORD counted it to him as righteousness.

Read Isaiah 42:19

- ❖ In Scripture what does being deaf and blind mean?
 - Choosing to live in unbelief.
 - Not hearing, seeing, or believing the word and promise of God.
 - Choosing to believe in a world view.
 - Being an idolater.
- Idolatry – false gods

Read Isaiah 48:1

- ❖ What does it mean to lose your righteousness?
 - To live in persistent rejection of God.
 - Praising God with one's lips but not with one's heart.

Post-video follow up question: (15 minutes)

- ❖ Israel is in physical captivity in Babylon, but what more serious situation— as the professors stated— is going on that has God call out through Isaiah to his people? How do we see this as a call to God's people today?
 - God's people are being persecuted and tempted to abandon the Hebrew God Yahweh and are being lured and forced to follow the Babylonian god's and deities.
 - Christians are persecuted in many parts of the world today. In many ways Christianity is persecuted and ridiculed here in the United States.
 - Worldly temptations are building up around Christ's church as worldly morals and values are broken down.
- ❖ What attacks or pressures of the culture was Israel under while in Babylon?
How do we see those same attacks and pressures in our world today?
 - The question: Who is the rightful king of the universe, God / Yahweh or the Babylonian gods?
 - Then – Is the true God the same as all the gods of Babylon?
 - Today – Is the true God the same as all the gods of other religions?
Examples – Muslim god Allah, Mormon god, god of the Jews today
 - Today – Is there a God?
- ❖ How do we see the question of who is the true God in:
 - Exodus? – When you become king of Egypt (Pharaoh) you are raised to godhood. The battle of the snakes and the plagues was to show who was the true God and who was a false god.
 - Isaiah? – The question was between the false gods of Babylon and the true God of the Hebrews, Yahweh.
 - Time of Christ? – Jesus is Lord not Caesar.
 - Today? – Where is our priority, who is our God?
- ❖ What is Isaiah's advice that leads us into this Bible study? How does this advice apply to us today?
 - Get out.
 - Get Israel out of Babylon – physical slavery.
 - Get Babylon out of Israel – spiritual slavery.
 - The physical and spiritual slavery to sin – repentance and forgiveness.