

## Small Group Meeting week 12 on Isaiah 65:17-25

### Review (20mins)

Reflect together on your experiences over the last week. What has God been teaching you? Where have you been growing in your walk with Him? Had you set yourself a challenge in your discipleship? How is that going? Share those experiences with your small group.

### Read (10mins)

Recap on the sermon from last Sunday. Try to give a summary to those who were not able to be present.

### Isaiah 65:17-25

Read the Bible passage for this week, slowly and prayerfully. It might help to use your imagination to picture the scenario. At the end of the text you will find helpful background information in our 'Setting the Scene' section.

As you read, look out for *shockers* and *blockers*.

*Shockers* – a phrase, word, image or something from the text that resonates, stands out or connects with you.

*Blockers* – something from the text that raises questions for you.

### Setting the scene:

- We need to remember that Isaiah has been speaking into a society that had forgotten God, a ruling elite that has made wealth for themselves and neglected love of God and neighbourliness. This vision is meant to picture the end of that trauma and injustice (ref to “the former things” is not just

about the Exile but the way they were oppressing others that led to God's concern in the first place.

- The text today paints a picture of what life for the Common Good would be like if we lived as though we loved God and engaged in genuine neighbourliness. It is not just a picture about heaven (references to child birth, those who don't live to a hundred, and the serpent give that clue). It is a vision of what is possible when God is truly obeyed – Shalom and well-being for all.
- The challenge shows us something that is deep on God's heart and therefore should be on ours.

## Reflect (20 mins)

After you have all had time to read the text, pause and be still to listen to God through the Scriptures.

Begin your reflection time by each naming your *shockers* and *blockers*. Listen carefully to each other, share your thoughts and reflect on this passage together.

You might also like to explore these questions:

Q1. What is there in this prophetic poem that challenges you most?

Q2. How do you think this speaks to our community today?

Q3. Thinking of the "Whole Lyfe" theme. How could you use this prophecy in your prayer time this week?

## Respond (20mins)

As you draw near to the end of your session, look back over the whole Isaiah series. What has spoken to you most? Discuss how you have responded in the whole series through "walking the talk". Share testimony of how God has worked in you.

What are you going to be doing this week that will help you stretch the faith you have? It may be a challenge or activity that you are currently engaged with over many weeks. Be prepared to share how you are growing in that.

## **Some new challenge ideas**

### **1 Contributing to better Health Care (65:20)**

What could you do that would help work towards better health care for all?

### **2 Contributing to a New economy (65:21-22)**

What could you do in the next month that would help promote a greater sense of equality in Hampshire, the UK, or across the world?

### **3 Contributing to a New and non-violent environment (65:25)**

What could you do in the next month that could contribute to healing of relationships in your home, in the UK, across the world?

## **Group Prayer**

As a group, pray for one another this week as you explore a deeper life with God through prayer. Pray that your times of prayer and your attempt to walk in the light of God's ways will increase and become more habitual throughout each day.