

Isaiah 35:1-10 Discussion Guide

Pray

Apart from God, we can do nothing. Pray for the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion. Throughout your time together, continue asking God for help.

Read Scripture

Read Isaiah 34 and 35 together with a special focus on chapter 35.

Bible Study: The HEAR Method

The bulk of your time will be spent discussing God's Word together. HEAR is an inductive Bible study method that looks closely at what the Bible says to discover what it means so that we can faithfully apply it to our lives.

HEAR stands for:

- **Highlight:** read and observe everything in the passage carefully.
- **Examine:** based on your observations, discover what the passage means in its context.
- **Apply:** determine how the meaning of the passage applies to your life.
- **Respond in prayer:** pray God's Word back to Him.

Remember:

- Walk through the Bible study together using the HEAR method and talk about what stuck out most to you in the passage.
- Make sure you move discussion to the application section of your study.
- Affections, beliefs, and practices: Make sure to apply the passage to all your life.

Pray

- Take time to pray for one another and ask for His grace to apply His Word to our daily lives.

Open: Where do people today seek to find hope for their lives?

Context: In Isaiah 28-35 God gives expression to His dissatisfaction with His faithless people by issuing a series of six laments with promises. Surprisingly, God also communicates His steadfast commitment to fulfill His gracious promise to them for rescue, ransom, deliverance, and, ultimately, salvation. Chapters 34 and 35 stand in stark contrast to one another as 34 describes God's final judgment for the world that has rejected Him and abused His people. Whereas chapter 35 speaks of God's commitment to ransom back His people from slavery and death and bring them in to experience peace, joy, and everlasting salvation.

Study:

- 1) In chapter 34, with whom Isaiah declare God is angry? Why is God angry with them (see 34:1-8)?
- 2) Unto whom does God give the nations? What do the people of the world become (see 34:9-17)?
- 3) How do you think chapter 35 would have brought hope to their first readers of this prophecy? What is promised in this chapter?
- 4) In contrast to chapter 34, what will happen to the wilderness and the wastelands (see 35:1-2)? What significance do Lebanon, Carmel and Sharon have in this prophecy?

- 5) Why do you think that Isaiah relies so heavily on figurative language to communicate these promises to God's people (see 35:1-2)? What's the significance of desolate creation being restored? How does this connect with the overarching theme of all Scripture, which is Creation, Fall, Redemption, and Restoration?
- 6) What will happen to the weak and fearful (see 35:3-4)? Where do we see these ideas discussed in the New Testament?
- 7) What various disabilities are described in vs. 5-6? What will happen to them, and what is the point of this great reversal? What will happen to the land (see vs. 7)? What is the point of this change?
- 8) How does Isaiah describe the "Way of Holiness" (see vs. 8)? Who will travel the highway that leads to Zion? Who won't? What is their condition as they travel (see 9-10)? How was this fulfilled?
- 9) What does it mean to be redeemed and ransomed (see vs. 9-10)?
- 10) When John the Baptist was arrested by Herod, he sent some of his disciples to Jesus to ask, "*Are You the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?*" Jesus answers them by quoting Isaiah 35:5-6 to them (read Matthew 11:2-6). How would this answer have reassured John that Jesus was indeed the Promised One who was to come?

Apply:

- 11) Life can be hard and difficult while we wait for God's final deliverance of His people. As you wait, where have you struggled with worry and anxiety? The world often counsels those who worry to simply forget your problems (i.e. "Don't worry, be happy!") or to overcome anxiety by asserting your self-confidence (i.e. "I can do this, so Just Do It!"). How does this passage help instruct the anxious heart (see vs. 4a and ask yourself, "Why?" as you read 4b)?
- 12) If freedom from fear comes through hoping in God and His promises, how does looking at the cross of Christ encourage you during uncertain times? How can we help one another grow in trusting that Jesus is with us, for us, and will never leave or forsake us?
- 13) How does knowing that the curse of the fall will be completely reversed One day soon provide you with hope for whatever you are walking through right now?

PRAY:

- Take time thank God the He truly is the One who always keeps His promises.
- Take time to thank God that there is coming a day when He will save His people and give us peace.
- Take time to pray and ask for help to trust Him more during times of confusion.
- Ask God for the Spirit's help to resist the temptations to be fearful by trusting in the Gospel's definitive message of redemption and salvation.
- Ask God to give you opportunities to share with others His salvation before it's too late to receive it.