

Mental



✔ Prepare in Advance

Facilitator: In advance of the session:

- Have a flipchart or board and appropriate markers available.
- Review today's scripture text and the session activities to help better facilitate the discussion.
- Have the *Bible Background Video* ready to view.

✔ Explore

As you begin write the following on the board/chart:

- At the top, write "God's People"
- Draw a vertical line down the middle of the board/chart.
- On the left side, write "Isaiah's Time." On the right side, write "Our Time."

Have someone read Isaiah 60:1-9 out loud and show the *Bible Background Video*.

✔ Isaiah: Looking at a Future Reality

As a group, briefly summarize the time into which Isaiah spoke this message of hope.

- How attainable was the reality that Isaiah described?
- Why do you think Isaiah reminds the people from the very beginning that God is the source of the light? How many times are they reminded throughout these verses?
- At that time, the nation itself was God's people. On the chart/board, write "Nation" on the left-hand side, and describe some of the things that defined God's people in Isaiah's time (two examples include a common land and a common government).
- What signs of prosperity are promised (verses 4-9)? Why will it be given?
- What hope does Isaiah's vision inspire for them – is it merely hope that things will improve materially?

✔ Today: Looking at a Future Reality

- How could we describe the Kingdom made up of God's people today, since we are not defined as a political nation?
- On the right-hand side of the board, write down some things that define us as God's people today. What are our common goals and adversities?

- What challenges do we share with the people of Israel in the time of Isaiah?
- If Isaiah were writing today, what would prosperity look like among God's people? What would be signs of God's favor?
- What hope does Isaiah's vision inspire for us today? What is God promising, and why?

✔ Closing

Pray something like: *Loving God, remind us today that we are your people, part of a greater Kingdom than any other loyalty we hold. Give us hope as we see your vision for a future reality – and give us courage to make it happen!*

By Jon Parks

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