

# SCRIPTURE ISAIAH 1:10-20

#### ISAIAH 1:10-15

10 Hear the word of the Lord, you rulers offerings. Your incense is detestable to of my courts? 13 Stop bringing useless hands are covered with blood.

of Sodom! Listen to the instruction of our me. New Moons and Sabbaths, and the God, you people of Gomorrah! 11 "What calling of solemn assemblies—I cannot are all your sacrifices to me?" asks stand iniquity with a festival. 14 I hate the Lord. "I have had enough of burnt your New Moons and prescribed festivals. offerings and rams and the fat of well- They have become a burden to me; I am fed cattle; I have no desire for the blood tired of putting up with them. 15 When of bulls, lambs, or male goats. 12 When you spread out your hands in prayer, I you come to appear before me, who will refuse to look at you; even if you offer requires this from you—this trampling countless prayers, I will not listen. Your

#### ISAIAH 1:16-17

16 "Wash yourselves. Cleanse yourselves. is good. Pursue justice. Correct the Remove your evil deeds from my sight. oppressor. Defend the rights of the Stop doing evil. 17 Learn to do what fatherless. Plead the widow's cause.

#### ISAIAH 1:18-20

red, they will be like wool. 19 If you are For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

18 "Come, let us settle this," says the Lord. willing and obedient, you will eat the good "Though your sins are scarlet, they will be things of the land. 20 But if you refuse and as white as snow; though they are crimson rebel, you will be devoured by the sword."



#### **READ ISAIAH 1:10-15.**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Look back at Isaiah 1:1-9. How does God, speaking through Isaiah, describe the people of Judah and Jerusalem?

\_02 Why did the people of Judah need this wake up call? Why might people today need a similar wake up call?

**13** Why wasn't God impressed with the people of Judah's sacrifices and offerings (vv. 12-13,15)? How can we make sure our acts of worship are pleasing to God?

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#### 슈][슈 THEOLOGY

God knows the words we are going to speak before we speak them (Ps. 139:4). God knows everything about us (Ps. 139:1; Jer. 17:10) and nothing we do is hidden from Him (Heb. 4:13). So how can God tell the people of Judah that He will not listen to their prayers or look at them (Isa. 1:15)? Verse 15 employs a literary technique that is known as anthropomorphism, which is when human characteristics or behaviors are attributed to God to make a point. The point of verse 15 is not that God doesn't know what they are saying in prayer or that He doesn't see what they are up to, but rather that their sin has separated them from God in a personal and relational sense. All the religious actions of the people of Judah were actually driving them further away from God because they were just a cover-up.

#### **READ ISAIAH 1:16-17.**

\_04 What can we learn about the nature of the people of Judah's sin from these verses?

**.**05 Now that the people of Judah have been called out for their hypocrisy, how should they respond? How should we respond when our sins are revealed to us?

#### **READ ISAIAH 1:18-20.**

\_06 What two options are presented here for those whose sins are exposed? What is the outcome of each?

.07 What does God promise to do for those who repent? Why is this really good news?

\_08 How have you experienced the pain of rebellion or hypocrisy? How have you experienced the joy and freedom of repentance?

#### CIVE AN ANSWER

We know from verse 18 that God is the only one who can truly cleanse and forgive us of our sin. Isaiah was well aware of this. The point of verse 16 was to get the attention of the people of Judah and make clear that they could not continue living the way they had been if they had any hope of having a personal relationship with God. The command to wash and cleanse in verse 16 is not a command for people to fix themselves, so much as it was a call to acknowledge the depth of their sin so that they might look to God for the strength necessary to turn away from it. The promise of full forgiveness found in verse 18 is ultimately fulfilled in Christ (Rev. 7:14; Eph. 1:6-8).

# ISAIAH 1:10-20 NOW What?



### © CENTRAL **truth**

Our God is so good that He invites us to repent and offers us full forgiveness of our hypocrisy and sin.

- **19** Review: What is repentance? What does it look like to truly repent from sin more than just feeling bad about something you did?
- 1 On a scale of 1 to 10 (1 being not at all and 10 being very), how aware are you of the needs of the people around you? How might we deepen our awareness of others' needs?

- .11 Why is it good news that God sometimes calls people out for their sin? How might this help us grow?
- .12 How might we help one another walk in repentance and draw near to God?



# devotions

**MEMORIZE ISAIAH 1:18** 

7 ARROWS FOR BIBLE READING



What does this passage say?



What does this passage tell us about God?



passage mean to its original audience?

What did this How does this passage change the way I relate to people?



What does this passage tell us about man?



How does this passage prompt me to pray?



What does this passage demand of me?

day 1

## **ISAIAH** 1:1-9

#### **DWELL**

Isaiah doesn't exactly start on a happy note. God informed the people of Judah of the depth of their sin against God. Isaiah says they have not only rebelled against God but have despised Him and turned their backs on Him (v. 4). The fact that God delivered this message to the people of Judah actually demonstrates His love. God had not abandoned His people—calling them out was the first step toward their redemption.



How did God refer to the people of Judah in verse 1? Does this surprise you given the way God describes them in verses 4-6?



→ Why is it important to note that Judah was chosen by God and yet still chose to rebel against Him? How can you avoid doing similarly?

#### **MEMORIZE**

Ask a friend or family member to memorize Isaiah 1:18 with you this week. Quiz each other several times this week.

#### **PRAY**

Ask God to help you fight the temptation to live only for yourself. Ask Him to help you love Him more and the people around you better.

day 2

## ISAIAH 1:10-15

#### **DWELL**



→ What makes worship genuine? How will you truly seek God this week?

God, through the prophet Isaiah, called the people of Judah to acknowledge their hypocrisy—to admit that their religious acts were only for show. While no one likes to be called out, acknowledging their sin was essential to the people of Judah being restored to a right relationship with God.

#### **MEMORIZE**

Break Isaiah 1:18 down into several parts, work on reciting each part one at a time from memory before trying to recite the whole verse.

#### **PRAY**

Ask God to help you be real with yourself, with others, and ultimately with Him.

day 3

## **ISAIAH** 1:16-20

#### **DWELL**

God set before the people two options: repent and be restored to God or continue in their rebellion and be cut off from Him. This passage does two things: (1) it points us forward to the redemption that Jesus would one day provide through His blood shed on the cross and (2) illustrates the danger of choosing to continue living in sin.



In what specific ways did God call the people of Judah to change?



→ Look at verse 18. Why is this good news for you today?

#### **MEMORIZE**

Use a dry erase marker to write Isaiah 1:18 on a mirror you use every day or write it on a notebook card and tape it to the mirror. Erase or mark out a few words each day until you've memorized the whole verse.

#### **PRAY**

Ask God to help you take the sin in your heart and life seriously and pray that He would help you trust Him as you seek to turn away from it.

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# day 4 ISAIAH 1:21-26

#### **DWELL**



What do we communicate to the world when we care for the most needy people among us? How could you help someone in need this week?

This passage illustrates a theme in Isaiah: when God speaks out against His people's selfish actions, He doesn't hold back. Here God, through Isaiah, informs the people of how they've changed from righteous to broken, corrupt people who have caused great harm to their neighbors, particularly their most needy neighbors. Verses 25-26, however, reveal that God was plotting their redemption despite their selfish actions.

#### **MEMORIZE**

Go somewhere quiet and read Isaiah 1:18 aloud several times. Note key words and think of images or hand motions to help you memorize the verse.

#### **PRAY**

Ask God to give you a greater awareness of the pain that sin causes to both you and to the people around you. Ask Him to give you a heart for the most needy people in your life.

#### day 5

# **ISAIAH** 1:27-31

#### **DWFLL**

The oaks and gardens in this passage are probably references to forms of pagan (people who worship multiple false gods) worship among the Canaanite nations surrounding Judah. If Judah continued to rebel, God promised the end result would be the same of the pagan idols—destruction. Once again, these strong words from God were intended to encourage people to turn from sin and look to God for redemption.



What does God promise will happen to those who choose to continue rebelling against Him?



How do God's judgments against His people actually demonstrate His love for them? For you?

#### **MEMORIZE**

Check in with your friend or family member from Day 1 and continue to challenge each other to commit Isaiah 1:18 to memory.

#### **PRAY**

Ask God to help you love Him more than you love yourself.