



**DISCUSSION GUIDE FOR SMALL GROUPS**  
**6 & 7 NOVEMBER 2021**  
**ISAIAH 61**

The main study guide material for the sermon series “Seeing the Light through Isaiah”, is to be purchased at <https://www.ivpress.com/isaiah-40-66-ebook>

The material in this document is intentionally brief. It is intended as a supplement only.

- **Begin by reading the Scripture passage together.**
- **Review the video of the sermon if needed (see <http://www.brnc.org.sg/category/resources/sermons>).**
- **Refer to the [main study guide](#) *Chapter 8* as well as this supplementary material.**
- **Feel free to discuss as few or as many questions as best fits your group’s current context and present stage in life.**
- **Remember to budget some time (15-20 min) to pray with and for one another, before ending your group session.**

### Sidebox: Our journey through Isaiah, so far ...

We opened with Isaiah's message of comfort (40:1) to the Israelite exiles living under the rule of Babylon, a consequence of God's judgement on their unfaithfulness and disobedience.

A means through which God brings this comfort and restoration is his Servant, as described in the 4 servant songs (Isa 42:1-9, Isa 49:1-7, Isa 50:4-11, Isa 52:13-53:12), two of which we covered in detail (Isa 42 and 52-53). The Servant is God's instrument to undertake God's purpose.

Isaiah 54-55 invites us to respond to God's invitation. There is the call to come back to our sovereign God (54:5-6), to repent of our sins and seek forgiveness (55:6-7). In doing so, our distress and despair will be exchanged for comfort and blessings (54:4-10, 55:8-13). God's invitation to draw near to him goes out to all, even to the so-called foreigners and outsiders (Isaiah 56).

Despite these promises of comfort and the invitation to repentance, struggles with idolatry (Isaiah 57), false spirituality (Isaiah 58), and injustice and wickedness (Isaiah 59) remain. This is driven home in Isaiah 59:14-15:

*“Justice is turned back, and righteousness stands far away; for truth has stumbled in the public squares, and uprightness cannot enter. Truth is lacking, and he who departs from evil makes himself a prey. The LORD saw it, and it displeased him that there was no justice”.*

And so the LORD himself steps in to bring salvation (59:16-17). He remembers his covenant with his people, putting his Spirit in them and in their children (59:21).

In chapters 60 and 61, we see how God's people shine forth his light, drawing even all the nations to him.

### Response, Application, Prayer

1. In Luke 4:16-21, Jesus reads from Isaiah 61:1-2, with a line from Isaiah 58:6, and declares boldly that the Scripture Isaiah 61 is fulfilled right then and there. What are the implications for us given that Jesus is in fact God's anointed servant? (Hint: what does Jesus bring that changes our lives? Draw your responses from the text of Isaiah 61) How should we then respond to Jesus?

2. Like the Israelites, we need reminders about the amazing promises God has made, which helps us to rejoice. What are some practical ways we can help each other to rejoice in the gospel message?

3. Are we excited about evangelism? Share about some challenges you face that makes sharing the gospel difficult