

Talk It Over

Questions are prepared each week and are designed to prompt insights, questions, and the life experience of each listener. If these are used immediately following the sermon, it would be much the same as what was done in Israel at the time of the early church.

Discuss

1. What “voices from the past” still guide your life today? What things did a parent, teacher, or mentor say to you that are still providing direction and guidance for your life today?
2. How familiar are you with the Book of Isaiah? Did you recognize any of the quotes from the book that were mentioned in this week’s talk?
3. What was the role of the prophet in ancient Israel? In what ways did prophets predict the future? How has the role of the Old Testament prophet often been misunderstood?
4. What is the significance of the Book of Isaiah developing in three stages: Isaiah’s lifetime (chapters 1-39); Exile (chapters 40-55); Return from exile (chapters 56-66)? How does this “three stage development” provide insight into how the teachings of Isaiah have been used in different circumstances and situations to provide direction and hope?
5. How are the major themes of Isaiah—Purpose, Principles and Hope—essential tools for navigating crisis and change? In what ways does Jesus both embody and exemplify these major themes of Isaiah?
6. Why is Isaiah sometimes referred to as the “Fifth Gospel”? Why do Jesus and the other New Testament writers quote the book so frequently?
7. What expectations do you have from the Book of Isaiah after the introduction the book was given in this week’s talk?

