

LIVE NEW: Week 4 1.26.14

[set up]

What is one of your all-time favorite films? Why is it one of your favorites?

What kinds of emotions or thoughts are stirred in you when you consider that you are in a story – His-story – where God, not you, is the writer, director, producer, composer, editor, and star?

Optional: Last week, we were introduced to a song that can help us worship our Restoring Lord. Consider playing it for yourself or with your LifeGroup. My Healer by Hillsong - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rE6xFeWA3kw>

[digging deeper]

Read the description below about the spiritual condition of Israel when Isaiah wrote his prophecy:

Isaiah wrote to God's people during the decline of the Northern Kingdom, Israel. Because of the sin of God's people, God sent an enemy, the Assyrians, to conquer His people. In 701 King Sennacherib of Assyria also threatened Judah, the Southern Kingdom.

King Hezekiah of Judah prayed earnestly for protection. Isaiah predicted that God would force the Assyrians to withdraw. Nevertheless, Isaiah warned Judah that her sin would one day bring judgment – captivity at the hands of Babylon.

Although the fall of Judah would not take place until 586 BC, Isaiah predicted the destruction of Judah and also the eventual restoration of the people from captivity.

Isaiah 61 is filled with promises that God would one day redeem His people from Babylon. Isaiah's prophecies also prefigure a greater restoration from sin for God's people – the church – through Christ as a result of both His first and second comings.

(Read more here: <http://www.biblestudytools.com/isaiah/>)

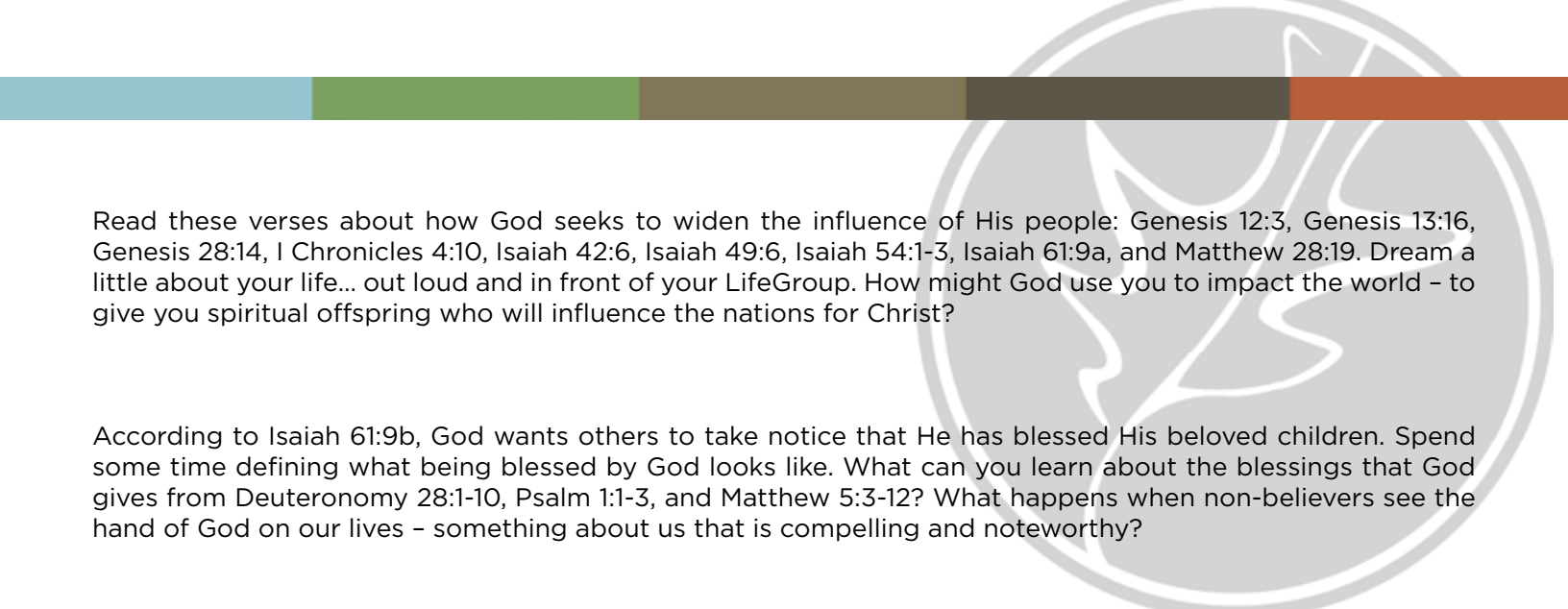
Does the storyline from Isaiah parallel a storyline in your life? If so, how?

Re-read all of Isaiah 61 and look for phrases and words that communicate the message that our Lord is a Restorer. Which of these words or phrases most increase your faith, inform your hope, and inspire your love?

Read Isaiah 57:15-19 and Isaiah 58:11-12 where the Lord is revealed as a Restorer. What are some conditions presented in these passages that demonstrate that we are ready to receive His restoration?

In Isaiah 61:8, we see that our Restoring Lord loves justice and hate oppression. Read Isaiah 42:1-9. How does it impact you to know that the God who loves justice is the writer, director, editor, producer, and star of your story?

Read Isaiah 61:8b, Numbers 23:19, and Romans 4:20-21. What can we learn from these passages about God and His promises? Have there ever been times when you felt like God did not keep His promises to you? How did you deal with that? Discuss how different our world would be if we could not count on God to keep His promises.



Read these verses about how God seeks to widen the influence of His people: Genesis 12:3, Genesis 13:16, Genesis 28:14, I Chronicles 4:10, Isaiah 42:6, Isaiah 49:6, Isaiah 54:1-3, Isaiah 61:9a, and Matthew 28:19. Dream a little about your life... out loud and in front of your LifeGroup. How might God use you to impact the world – to give you spiritual offspring who will influence the nations for Christ?

According to Isaiah 61:9b, God wants others to take notice that He has blessed His beloved children. Spend some time defining what being blessed by God looks like. What can you learn about the blessings that God gives from Deuteronomy 28:1-10, Psalm 1:1-3, and Matthew 5:3-12? What happens when non-believers see the hand of God on our lives – something about us that is compelling and noteworthy?

The Lord is the star, the director, the producer, the composer, the editor, and the write of THE greatest story ever. He has invited each of us to play a significant part in His story. Why, then, do we struggle to find time to invest in building and intimate, personal relationship with Him?

[living it out]

What is in need of restoration in your life right now?

In which area do you most long to see God work? 1) Bringing about justice for you? 2) Keeping His promises to you? 3) Widening your influence? 4) Giving you His blessings? What might this look like?

In which area do the people around you most need you to imitate God? 1) Seeking justice for them? 2) Keeping your promises to them? 3) Helping to widen their influence through your networks? 4) Giving them some tangible blessing? What might that look like?

How could you – as a LifeGroup – join with our Restoring Lord on His mission of restoration? Have you landed on a group missional project yet? Spend some time discussing how the Lord is leading your LifeGroup. Check out our website for ideas: <http://www.cvconline.org/serve/local-regional/>

Close your time in prayer for one another – that each person in your LifeGroup will be enabled to live their lives in His-story with a deeper trust in the Restorer who is working powerfully to renew all things... in them, through them, with them, and for them.