

STUDY GUIDE

LIVE NEW: Week 5 2.2.14

[set up]

Was there anything from this last weekend's service that stands out or impacted you?

What have been a couple of lasting revelations or actions that have come about in your life the last six weeks as we went through Isaiah 61 in the "Live New" series?

How have you seen God help you "Live New" even in the most recent months?

[digging deeper]

As we wrapped up the "Live New" series last weekend, we saw in Isaiah 61:10 that the prophet of God said he "will greatly rejoice in the Lord" and that his "soul shall exult in my God". What does that look like when one greatly rejoices or exults? What is the difference between "rejoicing" and "rejoicing in the Lord?"

Can you think about and share about a time of worship that was very powerful and expressive in your life and why?

This last weekend was the Super Bowl. The Super Bowl holds multiple records for the most watched event in American history (around 110 million viewers). For many people a shared sporting event (whether it be football, soccer, etc.) brings friends together with great excitement around a shared experience with great enthusiasm. And although there is nothing wrong with that, why do you think it is so easy for us to express so much energy and enthusiasm at a sporting event then it is to celebrate and express the joy of who God is and what He has done in our lives? In other words, why do we often find ourselves shouting, cheering and emotionally engaged at a sporting event but then be so reserved and even disconnected during times of worship?

Isaiah identified that God clothing him with a "garment of salvation" and covering him with a "robe of righteousness" was the source of his joy. What does that mean as you understand it? Look up some of all of the following verses for clarity and an expanded understanding:

Is. 1:18.

Is. 53:1

Is. 64:6

Zech. 3:4

Rom. 3:21-26

Rom. 4:7-8

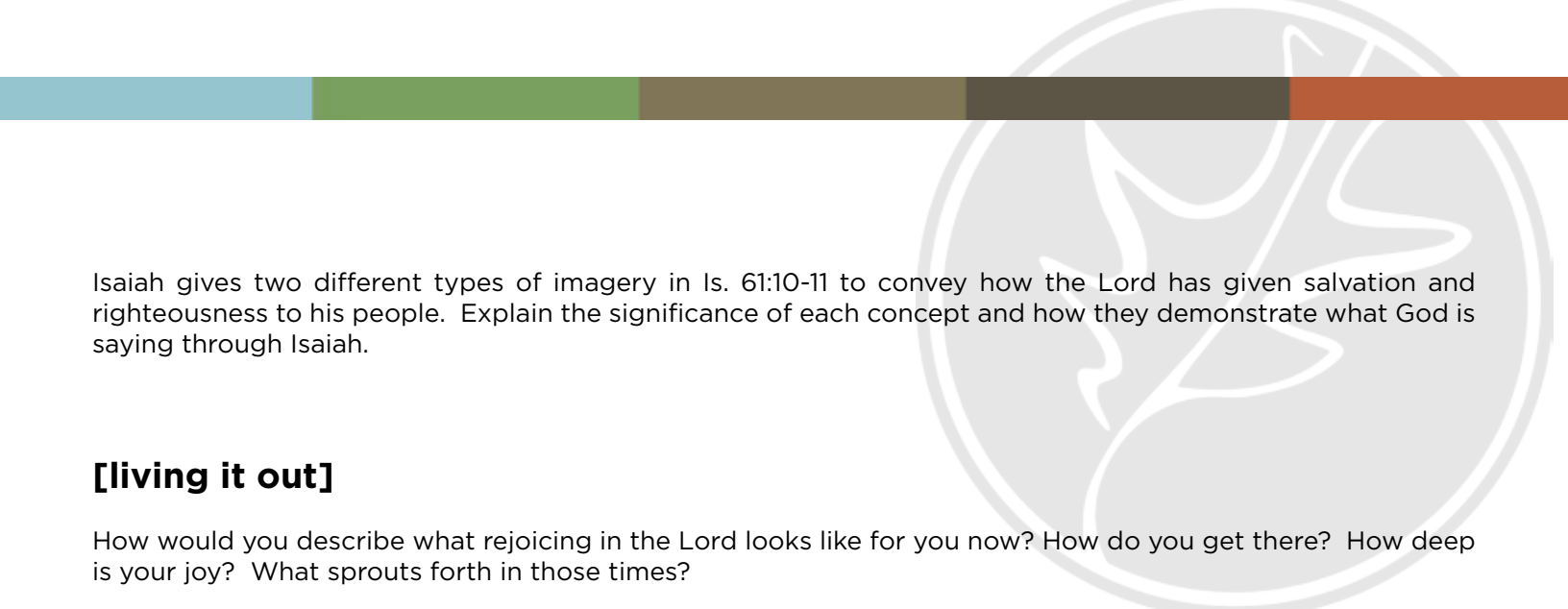
2 Cor. 5:21

Phil. 3:9

1 Peter 1:3-7

What does the word "Imputed" mean and how does it connect with the verses above?

Read Romans 13:14 - How do we actually "put on the Lord Jesus Christ"?

A decorative header at the top of the page consists of four horizontal bars in light blue, green, brown, and orange. To the right, a large, faint circular logo is visible, containing a stylized white figure that appears to be a person with arms raised in a gesture of praise or joy.

Isaiah gives two different types of imagery in Is. 61:10-11 to convey how the Lord has given salvation and righteousness to his people. Explain the significance of each concept and how they demonstrate what God is saying through Isaiah.

[living it out]

How would you describe what rejoicing in the Lord looks like for you now? How do you get there? How deep is your joy? What sprouts forth in those times?

What needs to happen and what can you do to increase the level of your soul exulting in God? You can engage this exercise more fully in your devotional life by writing a list of things that God has done in you and your life, what He has clothed you with and provided for you, how He has helped you experience new life - and then pray over them. You can also list out the distractions and obstacles that prevent you from great rejoicing in God and pray over them, that God would help you block or remove them. You can start right now by writing 2-3 items to “jump start” this exercise for later.

How can and will your awareness that God has “clothed you with salvation” and “robed you with righteousness” help you walk in strength and assurance through this sin-filled world where we still mess up? How can you practically remind yourself of your salvation and righteousness in Christ when you get discouraged or distracted?

Isaiah 61 ends with the declaration that God’s righteousness and praise will sprout up before all the nations. How are you partnering with God to make that happen? What is on your calendar right now that reflects your intention to make God’s salvation known to those who are unaware or uncertain?

Close this time by praying over the thoughts, convictions and joys that have emerged from the above questions and study. If you are in a LifeGroup Setting, find the one most pressing thought for each person and take the time to pray for each other over that one pressing thought.