



Thanks for checking out our sermon-based Study Guides! If you've never used our Study Guides before, you'll find some basic instructions on the bottom of page 2.

SERMON-BASED STUDY GUIDE
for the sermon preached on February 27, 2022
Community Engagement Sunday—Isaiah 61 & Luke 4:14-21



We're living in an in-between time—as families, as a nation, as a church. We're in between a pre- and post-pandemic world. The life we knew isn't coming back, but the new reality hasn't arrived yet—and we don't know when it will. This winter, we're looking back to another in-between time for God's people—the Babylonian exile—and remembering God's promises through the prophet Isaiah. In a series called Promiseland, we're learning that God's promises not only see us through this in-between time, but prepare the way for better times to come.

Group Discussion Questions

Note: For Community Engagement Sunday, each Campus Pastor is preaching live on their own campus, so there is not one single sermon for our community this week. This study guide is based on the texts for this week, Isaiah 61 and Luke 4:14-21.

Q – Begin by reading all of Isaiah 61 together as a group.

- The speaker in Isaiah 61 is the Messiah (“anointed”). List all the groups of people the Messiah ministers to in vv. 1-2. What does he do for them?
- In vv. 4-7, what does the Messiah's work allow these groups of people to do and to experience?
- What do we learn about the character of God in vv. 8-9?

Q – Now read Luke 4:14-21 together.

- What strikes you most about this passage from Luke?

- What is Jesus revealing about himself and about his mission by quoting these verses from the prophet Isaiah?
- How has Jesus fulfilled the prophecy he quotes—Is. 61:1-3—in your own life experience?
- How can we as Jesus’s followers continue the work he announces here?

Q – As we come to the end of our teaching series “Promiseland,” let’s review the promises that we have explored together:

- From Isaiah 40: the promise of **strength** in times of weariness
- From Isaiah 42: the promise of **justice** in the midst of the discouragement of injustice
- From Isaiah 58: the promise of **relationship with God** in the face of our bad religion
- From Isaiah 43: the promise of **deliverance** in times of trouble
- From Isaiah 44 & 45: the promise of **God’s presence** to fulfill our longings
- From Isaiah 53: the promise of **forgiveness** of our sin
- From Isaiah 65: the promise of **renewal** in response to our brokenness
- Which of these promises has most resonated with you as you have heard them preached during the series? Which most resonates with you as think about them today?

Q – As we consider the promises of God that we have been exploring in this series, and Jesus’s announcement of good news in Luke 4, let’s think about how each of us as individuals, and we as a group, can respond to what we have been hearing from God.

- What is the task of the church in response to the needs of the world around us?
- Where do you see God already at work in our local community?
- Why is it important that we recognize our own brokenness as we seek to serve the materially poor?

How to Use These Study Guides:

- Consider sending out the Scripture passage to your group members ahead of time.
- Begin each meeting with a short time of checking in with one another.
- You may want to begin the discussion by reading the Scripture passage together out loud, or by summarizing the passage if everyone has read it ahead of time.
- Don’t feel like you need to discuss every question included in the Study Guide. Pick one or two to start with, and see how the conversation flows.
- If your group meets over Zoom:
 - You may need to do more overt facilitating over Zoom than you would in person. Feel free to call on people to invite them to share.
 - Try to be sensitive to attention spans over Zoom—keep the meetings shorter than they would be in person.
- Be sure to set aside time for sharing prayer requests and praying together.

Group Leader Support: Please reach out to your Campus Pastor or your Coach if you have any questions about leading your group or concerns about your group dynamic. If you have

questions about or feedback on the Study Guides, please reach out to Pastor Tim or Pastor Rachel from the Group Life team.