

All about Jesus

Small group questions

The Major Prophets – Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Lamentations, Daniel

Leaders – if the questions make no sense or you don't know the answer – please contact bishop@bathurstanglican.org.au

What was the message about?

- How would you summarise the main message about the Major Prophets?
- What was particularly enlightening or challenging about today's message?

The promise of a Saviour - Isaiah

1. Discuss Isaiah's prophecies about the birth of the Saviour. See specifically Isaiah 9. What is the hope for Israel held out here?
2. Reflect on Isaiah 53 and its portrayal of the suffering servant. How does this deepen our understanding of Jesus' sacrifice?
3. Take a look at Isaiah 55 from v6. Discuss the generous invitation and the promise of mercy and pardon – only made possible by what Jesus has done for us.
4. Compare Isaiah 65:27-19 with Revelation 21:1-4 and discuss the joy of seeing how passages of Scripture written with 700 centuries between, are on the same page and heading in the same direction. How do you react?

Sin remembered no more - Jeremiah

5. Turn to Jeremiah 31:31ff. Jeremiah speaks of a new covenant. What are the distinguishing features of the promised new covenant?
6. How will the law be written on our hearts? What does this actually mean?
7. In light of Israel's recurrent disobedience, how does Jeremiah's promise of a new covenant offer hope and a fresh perspective for Israel – AND for us?
8. Recall what Mark said in the sermon about the link with Jesus' words at the Lord's Supper. How is this new covenant ratified?

God will shepherd his people - Ezekiel

9. Discuss the significance of the leaders, or "shepherds", in Israel failing their responsibilities. How does God's intervention as the ultimate Shepherd bring comfort?
10. Reflect on Ezekiel's vision of heart transformation. How does this parallel the work of the Holy Spirit in believers today?

Concluding the Old Testament Overview series

11. Reflecting on the entire series, how has your understanding of the Old Testament deepened or changed?
12. In this series, from creation to the prophets, we've seen God's pursuit of His people with mercy and grace, despite their repeated rebellion. How does this inform our understanding of God's character and his plan of salvation through Jesus?

Pray together about the overwhelming evidence of God's faithfulness as seen throughout the Old Testament, and the way the Old Testament so wonderfully speaks of and points us to Jesus. Ask for a deeper appreciation of the Old Testament and for grace to live in the hope and promise of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.