



Isaiah 61 **'The God of Change'** **Week 7**

Read Isaiah 61

This chapter kicks off with 'the Lord's anointed' making a glorious declaration of what he has been commissioned to do. This involves a wonderful transformation that God will bring about for his people, which is all part of 'The Year of the Lord's favour'. After spelling out this time of change and restoration, the Lord himself declares that he will establish an 'everlasting' relationship with his people, characterised by joy and grace. The chapter ends with the response of the recipient who praises God at the anticipation of the fulfilment of these promises.

- 1. Share some really good news you received that brought about a significant change in your life?**
- 2. What are the claims that this messenger makes about himself in the first part of verse 1. How do Isa 11:1-2 and in Isa 42:1 help us piece together his identity?**
- 3. Read Luke 4:14-21. What is Jesus saying about himself in relation to the messenger in the beginning of Isaiah 61? How is this significant?**
- 4. List the things that the anointed one has come to do in verses Isaiah 61:1-3. If Jesus is the one to fulfil these things, how did he fulfil them in his life/death/resurrection?**
- 5. Share with each other how the work of the gospel has made a difference in your life in the light of v1-3?**

- 6. The blessings promised in Isaiah 61 are all part of the 'year of the Lord's favour'. List the blessings that the Lord has promised in the rest of the chapter (v4-11). How does grace relate to these blessings?**

- 7. God calls his people into a covenantal relationship with him. What is the basis for God rewarding his people with this relationship? (v8) In the light God's character (v8) and by reflecting on Isa 56:1 and 59:1-9 why is this reward surprising?**

- 8. What is the new identity that is described for the people of God in Isa 61? Why does righteousness need to be a key part of this new identity?**

- 9. What is God's purpose in blessing and transforming his people? (v3, 9)**

- 10. How many of these promises in Chap 61 have been now accomplished and what is still yet to come?**

- 11. What is the response of the recipient to these promises of God? (v10)**

- 12. If we too are to have a response of 'delighting in the Lord and our soul rejoicing in our God' what does this mean in real life terms? How can we keep on doing this? How can we help each other to do this more consistently?**