



# FAMILY DEVOTIONS

## INSTRUCTIONS

For each week we will upload three devotions that build upon and link to our Kids Alive message on Sunday. Three devotions means:

- Those who already do devotions can continue these the other half of the week;
- Those for whom devotions are possible at most every second night of the week can also be included.

The devotions will follow this format:

### **INTRO**

A short introductory activity or discussion

### **RECAP**

A recap of the previous devotion

### **READ**

A short passage will be printed. This makes it less time-consuming and also excludes the need to find a bible.

### **EXPLORE**

Some simple comprehension questions that direct our understanding of the passage

### **APPLY**

Something we can learn from the passage and apply to our own lives

### **PRAY**

Suggested prayer points that come from the passage

### **MEMORY VERSE**

This is only suggested if time permits as it may be a slightly longer activity. You may design something to remember the verse or do some fun games or activities to aid in remembering the verses.

# WEEK 1: Nov 26-Dec 2

## DAY 1

### **INTRO:**

Play Hide and Seek with your family. Who was consistently the most difficult to find?

### **RECAP:**

What did your children learn about at church on Sunday?

### **READ ISAIAH 59:12-15**

<sup>12</sup>Our offenses are many in your sight, and our sins testify against us. Our offenses are ever with us, and we acknowledge our iniquities: <sup>13</sup>rebellion and treachery against the LORD, turning our backs on our God, inciting revolt and oppression, uttering lies our hearts have conceived. <sup>14</sup>So justice is driven back, and righteousness stands at a distance; truth has stumbled in the streets, honesty cannot enter. <sup>15</sup>Truth is nowhere to be found, and whoever shuns evil becomes prey. The LORD looked and was displeased that there was no justice.

### **EXPLORE:**

What were the sins of Israel? (*Rebellion, treachery, revolting & turning their backs on God; oppressing others, lying*)

What was the result of all these sins? (*Justice, righteousness, truth & honesty were nowhere to be found*)

How did the Lord feel about this? (*He was displeased that there was no justice*)

### **APPLY:**

Throughout Isaiah the vastness of the sins of God's people is stressed. The Lord couldn't find anyone who was doing the right thing! In the lead up to Christmas this is a helpful reminder of why our Lord Jesus had to come: we can too often forget just how common and widespread sin is!

### **PRAY:**

Thank our Heavenly Father that he reminds us that sin is everywhere and affects everyone. Pray that we might have eyes that see and confess sin, rather than eyes that are so used to it that we no longer notice it.

### **MEMORY VERSE: (OPTIONAL ACTIVITY TIME PERMITTING)**

*The Redeemer will come to Zion. Isaiah 59:20*

Write the six sins of Israel on pieces of paper. On the back of these write the words of this week's verse. Organise the verse into its correct order so you can see what sins we have been redeemed from and so that you can start to learn the verse.

# WEEK 1: Nov 26-Dec 2

## DAY 2

### **INTRO:**

Describe to your family your favourite clothes and why you love to wear them so much.

### **RECAP:**

How had God's people been acting in the time of Isaiah?

### **READ ISAIAH 59:15-17**

<sup>15</sup>The LORD looked and was displeased that there was no justice. <sup>16</sup>He saw that there was no one, he was appalled that there was no one to intervene; so his own arm achieved salvation for him, and his own righteousness sustained him. <sup>17</sup>He put on righteousness as his breastplate, and the helmet of salvation on his head; he put on the garments of vengeance and wrapped himself in zeal as in a cloak.

### **EXPLORE:**

Why was the Lord displeased? *(Because there was no justice & no one to help the needy)*

What did he do as a result? *(He decided to bring salvation)*

How did he do this? *(He dressed himself in righteousness and determined to bring salvation and vengeance)*

### **APPLY:**

God doesn't just see injustice and do nothing; when he was confronted with the sins of Israel he dressed himself to fix it! This is a picture of Jesus, for it represents God getting ready to save his people. It is also a picture of us: in Ephesians 6 we are told to put on the same armour in our battle against sin!

### **PRAY:**

Thank our Heavenly Father that he actively fought against sin and injustice by sending his Son to defeat sin, death and the devil. Pray that we might take up the fight against sin each day by putting on the whole armour of God.

### **MEMORY VERSE: (OPTIONAL ACTIVITY TIME PERMITTING)**

*The Redeemer will come to Zion. Isaiah 59:20*

Make the six items of the armour of God and write on them this week's verse to continue to commit it to memory.

# WEEK 1: Nov 26-Dec 2

## DAY 3

### **INTRO:**

Work together as a family to solve a crossword or Sudoku. Alternatively share with your family a problem you recently fixed.

### **RECAP:**

What did God do about the sin and injustice he saw?

### **READ ISAIAH 59:20-21**

<sup>20</sup> "The Redeemer will come to Zion, to those in Jacob who repent of their sins," declares the LORD. <sup>21</sup> "As for me, this is my covenant with them," says the LORD. "My Spirit, who is on you, will not depart from you, and my words that I have put in your mouth will always be on your lips, on the lips of your children and on the lips of their descendants—from this time on and forever," says the LORD.

### **EXPLORE:**

Who would the Redeemer come to help? (*Those who repented of their sins*)

What would the Lord do to fix those who repented of their sins? (*Give them his Spirit forever*)

What else would he do to help them not fall into sin again? (*God's word would dwell in their family*)

### **APPLY:**

God is able to completely fix problems! To those who repent of their sins he redeems them from their sins, but also gives them his Spirit and Word so that they will not go back to their sinful ways. How great is our salvation!

### **PRAY:**

Thank our Heavenly Father Jesus came to redeem us from our sins. Pray that we will be filled with his Spirit and that his word will dwell on our lips and the lips of our children and grandchildren.

### **MEMORY VERSE: (OPTIONAL ACTIVITY TIME PERMITTING)**

*The Redeemer will come to Zion. Isaiah 59:20*

Draw a Christmas picture of the birth of Jesus to help you remember this week's verse.

# WEEK 2: Dec 3-9

## DAY 1

### INTRO:

Play 'Spotlight' (Hide and Seek in the dark) OR discuss with your family whether they have ever seen the sun rise or set, which they prefer and why.

### RECAP:

What did your children learn about at church on Sunday?

### READ ISAIAH 60:1-3

<sup>1</sup>"Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you. <sup>2</sup>See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the LORD rises upon you and his glory appears over you. <sup>3</sup>Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

### EXPLORE:

What did Isaiah want God to do? (*Shine the light of his glory on his people*)

Why did he want this to happen? (*Because the sin of his people was making the world a dark place*)

What did he think would happen if God did come and his glory shone on his people? (*People would come to Israel to see God's light*)

### APPLY:

Isaiah wanted to see God's glory again. In 59:9-10 he described God's people as wandering around in the dark of their sins like blind men. He desired to see the right thing done again and so called on God to rise like the sun so that his glory would shine like the dawn. This is powerful imagery describing how desperately our dark world needed Jesus to come!

### PRAY:

Thank our Heavenly Father that Jesus came so that we could see the light of God's glory clearly. Pray that we might not be like the people in Isaiah's time but that this Christmas we might be the light of the world as Jesus shines through us.

### MEMORY VERSE: (OPTIONAL ACTIVITY TIME PERMITTING)

"Arise, shine, for your light has come". Isaiah 60:1

Create a sun mosaic similar to this by cutting up and pasting small bits of paper:

Along the rays of the sun write this week's verse to help you remember it.



## WEEK 2: Dec 3-9

### DAY 2

#### **INTRO:**

Tell your family about the biggest crowd you've been a part of: where was it? Who was part of it? Why did everyone gather?

#### **RECAP:**

What did Isaiah long for God to do?

#### **READ ISAIAH 60:4-6**

<sup>4</sup>"Lift up your eyes and look about you. All assemble and come to you; your sons come from afar, and your daughters are carried on the hip. <sup>5</sup>Then you will look and be radiant, your heart will throb and swell with joy; the wealth on the seas will be brought to you, to you the riches of the nations will come. <sup>6</sup>Herds of camels will cover your land, young camels of Midian and Ephah. And all from Sheba will come, bearing gold and incense and proclaiming the praise of the LORD.

#### **EXPLORE:**

Who did Isaiah see gathering in this crowd? (*Everybody, even distant sons and baby girls*)

How did they feel when they gathered? (*Happy and full of joy*)

Why were they so happy? (*People from every nation gathered in Jerusalem, bringing their treasure!*)

#### **APPLY:**

Isaiah looked forward to the day when the darkness of sin disappeared in the glory of God's goodness. As a result of this he challenged God's people to look up to also see people from every nation coming to see God's glory. This happened when Jesus was born: as Isaiah prophesied foreign kings on camels brought gold and incense to Bethlehem (a little town near Jerusalem)!

#### **PRAY:**

Thank our Heavenly Father that we have great reason to be radiant, for our hearts to throb and swell with joy: Christ has come and gathered people from every nation to himself. Pray that many people from every nation will come to Christ this Christmas.

#### **MEMORY VERSE: (OPTIONAL ACTIVITY TIME PERMITTING)**

*"Arise, shine, for your light has come". Isaiah 60:1*

Come up with actions to help you remember this week's verse.

## WEEK 2: Dec 3-9

### DAY 3

#### **INTRO:**

Provide an opportunity for your kids to share how new children are welcomed at their school. If possible share different ways you have been made to feel welcome.

#### **RECAP:**

Who did Isaiah long to see make up the joyous crowd gathering in Jerusalem?

#### **READ ISAIAH 60:10-11**

<sup>10</sup> "Foreigners will rebuild your walls, and their kings will serve you. Though in anger I struck you, in favour I will show you compassion. <sup>11</sup> Your gates will always stand open, they will never be shut, day or night, so that people may bring you the wealth of the nations— their kings led in triumphal procession.

#### **EXPLORE:**

Who did Isaiah picture rebuilding Jerusalem? (*Foreigners and even kings*)

Once the city was rebuilt what would no longer be shut? (*The city gates*)

Why was this? (*So that people could continue to come into the new city*)

#### **APPLY:**

Isaiah prophesied that a day would come when all nations would be welcomed into God's people. This has happened as through Jesus people from every nation are welcomed into God's family. However this picture will ultimately be fulfilled when all nations will bring their wealth into the new creation (Revelation 21:25-26). Jesus' first coming points us to his second!

#### **PRAY:**

Thank our Heavenly Father that through Jesus we have been welcomed into God's family. Pray that we might welcome others into our homes, at our places of work and study and those who are new to our church (Heb 13:2).

#### **MEMORY VERSE: (OPTIONAL ACTIVITY TIME PERMITTING)**

*"Arise, shine, for your light has come". Isaiah 60:1*

Try to welcome someone you've never spoken to before at church on the weekend. Perhaps use this week's verse to encourage them with what you have learnt from God's word this week!



# WEEK 3: Dec 10-16

## DAY 1

### **INTRO:**

Reverse your clothes (inside out and back-to-front!) and take a photo of your family!

### **RECAP:**

What did your children learn about at church on Sunday?

### **READ ISAIAH 61:1-3**

<sup>1</sup> The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the broken hearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners <sup>2</sup> to proclaim the year of the LORD's favour and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion— to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendour.

### **EXPLORE:**

How was Isaiah anointed? (*By the Spirit of the Lord*)

What were some of the things he was anointed or specially chosen to do? (*Proclaim good news, freedom, and release, help the hurting*)

What would the result of this be? (*Those who mourned and grieved would become beautiful, joyous and filled with praise so that they displayed God's glory*)

### **APPLY:**

Isaiah announced a reversal for God's people. When their sin was paid for they would have their very lives turned around to the opposite. In Luke 4 Jesus said he fulfilled this passage: he came to pay for our sins so that we might be righteous and full of joy and praise. Spend some time thinking about your life: has it been turned around by Jesus, or have you some things that still need to be reversed?

### **PRAY:**

Thank our Heavenly Father that in Christ Jesus we are no longer spiritually poor, broken hearted or captives to sin. Pray that we will instead be filled with joy and praise and live a life of righteousness to the praise of our Father.

### **MEMORY VERSE: (OPTIONAL ACTIVITY TIME PERMITTING)**

*The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. Isaiah 61:1*

In Luke 4:17 Jesus chose to read these very words from a scroll to explain to his listeners who he was and what he came to do. Make a scroll and write on it this week's verse.

# WEEK 3: Dec 10-16

## DAY 2

### **INTRO:**

Think of something that, if you lost it, you would offer a reward to get back. What is the thing? What would you offer as a reward to get it back?

### **RECAP:**

What were some of the things the Lord's anointed would do?

### **READ ISAIAH 61:8-9**

<sup>8</sup>"I, the LORD, love justice; I hate robbery and wrongdoing. In my faithfulness I will reward my people and make an everlasting covenant with them. <sup>9</sup>Their descendants will be known among the nations and their offspring among the peoples. All who see them will acknowledge that they are a people the LORD has blessed."

### **EXPLORE:**

What had God's people lost? (*Justice: they were doing the wrong thing and robbing others*)

How would the Lord reward his people? (*He would make an everlasting agreement with his people*)

What would this reward result in? (*The children of God's people would become famous for being blessed by God*)

### **APPLY:**

Isaiah has spent a lot of his time describing just how awful the sin of God's people was. Yet in these final chapters he increasingly speaks of how God will not only take away their sin but that he will reward them! This is grace: God's people not only don't get what they deserve, but they are given what they don't deserve!

### **PRAY:**

Thank our Heavenly Father that because of Jesus we will not be punished for sin AND that we will be rewarded for his righteousness! Pray that people might look at the church today and acknowledge that we are people that the Lord has blessed.

### **MEMORY VERSE: (OPTIONAL ACTIVITY TIME PERMITTING)**

*The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. Isaiah 61:1*

Write the words of this week's verse on Sticky Notes and attach these to the different members of your family. Work together to put them in the right order, reminding yourselves that the Spirit of the Sovereign Lord has been given also to us!

## WEEK 3: Dec 10-16

### DAY 3

#### **INTRO:**

Go for a quick walk in a garden or park (or use Google images). Talk with your family about your favourite plants. What is it about them that gives you joy?

#### **RECAP:**

What reward would God give to his people?

#### **READ ISAIAH 61:10-11**

<sup>10</sup>I delight greatly in the LORD; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. <sup>11</sup>For as the soil makes the sprout come up and a garden causes seeds to grow, so the Sovereign LORD will make righteousness and praise spring up before all nations.

#### **EXPLORE:**

How had God dressed Isaiah? (*In garments of salvation, or in a robe of his righteousness*)

Who else was God going to dress like this? (*All nations*)

How did this make Isaiah feel? (*He found great delight in it; his soul rejoiced*)

#### **APPLY:**

There are beautiful images in these verses. Isaiah looked forward to the day when the Lord dressed him in righteousness as a bride dressed herself in beautiful jewels. He longed to see righteousness spring up in all the nations as plants spring up in a garden. We live in a time when Isaiah's imagery has become reality: people from all nations are now clothed in Christ's righteousness.

#### **PRAY:**

Thank our Heavenly Father that Jesus took away our sin AND gave us all of his righteousness so that we might be beautiful in the Lord's sight. Pray that our souls might also rejoice and that we might delight greatly in his goodness.

#### **MEMORY VERSE: (OPTIONAL ACTIVITY TIME PERMITTING)**

*The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. Isaiah 61:1*

Have each member of your family say one word of this week's verse as they spring to their feet. Then get them to sit down as the next person springs up to continue the verse. Continue until the whole verse has been said.

# WEEK 4: Dec 17-23

## DAY 1

### **INTRO:**

Build a city with your family. Use blocks, lounge cushions, sheets over a table... whatever you can find.

### **RECAP:**

What did your children learn about at church on Sunday?

### **READ ISAIAH 62:10-12**

<sup>10</sup>Pass through, pass through the gates! Prepare the way for the people. Build up, build up the highway! Remove the stones. Raise a banner for the nations. <sup>11</sup>The LORD has made a proclamation to the ends of the earth: "Say to Daughter Zion, 'See, your Saviour comes! See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him.'" <sup>12</sup>They will be called the Holy People, the Redeemed of the LORD; and you will be called Sought After, the City No Longer Deserted.

### **EXPLORE:**

What directions did Isaiah give to his people? (*Pass through the gates, build up the highway, raise a banner to show the nations where to go*)

Why were these directions necessary? (*He was trying to prepare his people for the arrival of their Saviour*)

Who was coming with the Saviour? (*The Holy People, the redeemed of the Lord*)

### **APPLY:**

In a previous devotion we saw from Isaiah that our Saviour will not only deliver us from our deserved judgment but also graciously reward us. In this passage we see the reward the Saviour received for dying on a cross. It is us! This is a beautiful image; Christ's reward for rescuing us is living with us for eternity.

### **PRAY:**

Thank our Heavenly Father that he loves us enough to consider us his reward for salvation. Pray that this might sustain us through the ups and downs of the crazy Christmas period.

### **MEMORY VERSE: (OPTIONAL ACTIVITY TIME PERMITTING)**

*Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down! Isaiah 64:1*

Mime the words of this week's verse and see if your family can guess the verse.

# WEEK 4: Dec 17-23

## DAY 2

### **INTRO:**

Share with your family: have you ever done something nice for someone and they have not responded nicely back?

### **RECAP:**

What would the Saviour bring with him when he came to God's holy city?

### **READ ISAIAH 63:7**

<sup>7</sup>I will tell of the kindnesses of the LORD, the deeds for which he is to be praised, according to all the LORD has done for us—yes, the many good things he has done for Israel, according to his compassion and many kindnesses. He said, "Surely they are my people, children who will be true to me"; and so he became their Saviour. <sup>9</sup>In all their distress he too was distressed, and by his angel and presence he saved them. In his love and mercy he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old. <sup>10</sup>Yet they rebelled and grieved his Holy Spirit. So he turned and became their enemy and he himself fought against them.

### **EXPLORE:**

What had the Lord done for his people Israel? (*He saved and redeemed them from Egypt*)

Why did he do this? (*Because he is compassionate and kind, loving and merciful*)

How did Israel respond? (*They rebelled against him*)

### **APPLY:**

Isaiah reminded his people of their history: God had graciously saved them but they had repeatedly rejected him. At Christmas we remember that the Lord Jesus also came to save his people but that he was ultimately rejected and killed by them.

### **PRAY:**

Thank our Heavenly Father for his compassion, kindness, love and mercy to us. Pray that we will not be like Israel and rebel against him by continuing in sin but that we will remember and tell of 'the deeds for which he is to be praised'.

### **MEMORY VERSE: (OPTIONAL ACTIVITY TIME PERMITTING)**

*Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down! Isaiah 64:1*

Isaiah longed to see the Lord return to save his people again. He never guessed that God would come down as a helpless little baby! Design a Christmas card showing this and write in it this week's verse.

# WEEK 4: Dec 17-23

## DAY 3

### **INTRO:**

Who is someone you would love to come and visit you this Christmas?

### **RECAP:**

How has God shown us his love and mercy?

### **READ ISAIAH 64:1-3**

<sup>1</sup>Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains would tremble before you! <sup>2</sup>As when fire sets twigs ablaze and causes water to boil, come down to make your name known to your enemies and cause the nations to quake before you! <sup>3</sup>For when you did awesome things that we did not expect, you came down, and the mountains trembled before you.

### **EXPLORE:**

What did Isaiah long for God to do? (*Come down from heaven to visit*)

What did he want God to do when he visited? (*Make his name known to Israel's enemies*)

What did Isaiah recall the Lord had done the last time he visited? (*Awesome, unexpected things*)

### **APPLY:**

Isaiah had no idea that God would answer this request and do even more unexpected things through his Son: he would die at the hands of his own people to rescue them from sin! Of course he would then return from the dead and promise to come down from heaven once more to judge the nations. Does our desire for this to happen match Isaiah's keenness for the Lord to come, or is it something you don't really think about?

### **PRAY:**

Thank our Heavenly Father that Jesus came down from heaven and did awesome, unexpected things to deliver us from sin, Satan and death. Pray that the Lord Jesus will come again soon to end injustice and to remove evil from our world as he judges the nations.

### **MEMORY VERSE: (OPTIONAL ACTIVITY TIME PERMITTING)**

*Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down! Isaiah 64:1*

For the rest of the week use this week's verse as a daily prayer so that, like Isaiah and the apostle John (Rev 22:20), you are regularly asking the Lord to come again soon.

# WEEK 5: Dec 24-30

## DAY 1

### **INTRO:**

Write 'The Lord' on a piece of paper and hide it somewhere in your house. See if your family can find it.

### **RECAP:**

What did your children learn about at church on Sunday?

### **READ ISAIAH 65:1-2**

<sup>1</sup> "I revealed myself to those who did not ask for me; I was found by those who did not seek me. To a nation that did not call on my name, I said, 'Here am I, here am I.' <sup>2</sup> All day long I have held out my hands to an obstinate people, who walk in ways not good.

### **EXPLORE:**

Who was the Lord found by in this passage? (*By those who did not seek him*)

How was he found? (*He revealed himself to them by saying 'Here I am' so they found him*)

Why weren't they looking for him? (*They were obstinate or stubborn & walked in bad ways*)

### **APPLY:**

In this passage Isaiah was speaking of his people Israel, for in their sin they had stopped seeking the Lord. However many centuries later the apostle Paul showed how this is true of us too; in Rom 10:20 he said that we Gentiles were also separated from him by our sin.

### **PRAY:**

Thank our Heavenly Father that he has shown us who he is even though we don't naturally seek him. Pray that we might be thankful this Christmas that our holy God has drawn near to us despite our sin.

### **MEMORY VERSE: (OPTIONAL ACTIVITY TIME PERMITTING)**

*These are the ones I look on with favour: those who are humble and contrite in spirit, and who tremble at my word. Isaiah 66:2*

Hide the words of this week's verse and work together as a family to find them and put them into the correct order.

## WEEK 5: Dec 24-30

### DAY 2

#### **INTRO:**

Create an earth out of bits of blue and green paper as in the picture.



#### **RECAP:**

Why was the Lord found by those who didn't seek him?

#### **READ ISAIAH 65:17-19**

<sup>17</sup>"See, I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind. <sup>18</sup>But be glad and rejoice forever in what I will create, for I will create Jerusalem to be a delight and its people a joy. <sup>19</sup>I will rejoice over Jerusalem and take delight in my people; the sound of weeping and of crying will be heard in it no more.

#### **EXPLORE:**

What would the Lord create? (*New heavens and a new earth*)

How would God's people feel about this new creation? (*They would be glad and rejoice forever for it would be a delight*)

How would the Lord feel about it? (*He too would rejoice and delight in his people*)

#### **APPLY:**

Isaiah didn't just prophesy a time when God would deal with the sin of his people and make them new. He pictured a recreation of the entire world, even including the heavens! Isaiah's prophecy was obviously picked up by the apostle John when he wrote *Revelation*, but it was also used by Peter who said 'since we are looking forward to a new heaven and earth where righteousness dwells, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with the Lord'.

#### **PRAY:**

Thank our Heavenly Father that he will give us a new home of righteousness that will delight us and cause us to rejoice forever. Pray that while we wait for the new creation we will make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with the Lord.

#### **MEMORY VERSE: (OPTIONAL ACTIVITY TIME PERMITTING)**

*These are the ones I look on with favour: those who are humble and contrite in spirit, and who tremble at my word. Isaiah 66:2*

Write the words of this week's verse around the earth you made above.



## WEEK 5: Dec 24-30

### DAY 3

#### **INTRO:**

What national backgrounds do the people at your work and school come from?

#### **RECAP:**

What would the Lord create?

#### **READ ISAIAH 66:18-20**

<sup>18</sup> "Because of the sin my people have planned and done, I am about to come and gather the people of all nations and languages, and they will come and see my glory. <sup>19</sup> I will set a sign among my people, and I will send some of those who survive to the nations—to Tarshish, to the Libyans and Lydians (famous as archers), to Tubal and Greece, and to the distant islands that have not heard of my fame or seen my glory. They will proclaim my glory among the nations. <sup>20</sup> And they will bring all your people, from all the nations, to my holy mountain in Jerusalem as an offering to the LORD."

#### **EXPLORE:**

Why would the Lord gather people from every nation? (*Because of the sin of his people*)

What would the Lord set up amongst his people? (*A sign*)

What would happen as a result? (*The Lord would send people to the ends of the earth to proclaim his glory*)

#### **APPLY:**

Isaiah finished off his writing with a picture of universal restoration. Not only would the new heavens and earth be created but they would be filled with people from every nation flocking to Jerusalem to join his people in glorifying him. The sign the Lord promised was therefore his Son crucified and raised to new life: this is what led to the apostles being sent to the nations listed to proclaim the Lord's glory.

#### **PRAY:**

Thank our Heavenly Father that he sent Jesus to us and that he sent the good news of what he'd done to every nation. Pray that in the new year this news might continue to go out and change lives!

#### **MEMORY VERSE: (OPTIONAL ACTIVITY TIME PERMITTING)**

*These are the ones I look on with favour: those who are humble and contrite in spirit, and who tremble at my word. Isaiah 66:2*

Say the first part of this week's verse so that your family members respond with the second.

## **WEEK 6: Dec 31-Jan 6**

### **DAY 1-3**

#### **PRAY:**

Spend your time this week praying:

- Take the time to think of what you would like to give thanks to the Lord for in 2017;
- Pray for the Lord's blessings over your family and friends in the year ahead, especially for things that you know are coming up;
- Ask the Lord to continue to grow and strengthen his people as the knowledge of Christ continues to go out to the ends of the earth.



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CASTLE HILL