

Growth Teams

Week Beginning
Sunday 14th May 2017

Going deeper

As we saw last week chapters 40-55 of Isaiah are addressed to Israel in Exile in Babylon in the 6th Century BC. The idea of 'the servant' in these chapters starts off talking about Israel, but seems to become more about an individual than the nation. It could be that the suffering servant in Isaiah 53 still in some way refers to Israel, but he seems to have become more of a saviour figure for Israel.

Read Isaiah 52:13-53:12

4. What surprising contrast is given in 52:13-15?
5. How is the servant viewed and treated by people? (53:1-3)
6. What kind of hardships and humiliations does the servant undergo?
7. Why was the suffering God's will? What is the ultimate fate of the servant?
8. How is this passage fulfilled in Jesus? How does it help us understand that Paul's boastings show that he is 'more of a servant of Christ'?

Now do the applying it to our lives questions...

Growth Team News

The daytime Growth Teams continue as normal. Please contact someone below if you would like to give one a try.

There are no evening Growth Teams running at present, but on Tuesdays we are running a series of talks called, 'Disciples of All Nations', 7:30pm in Church. We are also developing plans to relaunch evening Growth Teams in September. Please see the noticeboard by the coffee serving area for more details.



**Growing in Christ
to glorify God
and enjoy Him forever.**

What a boast!

2 Corinthians 11:16-33 (page 1165)

Space to take notes on the talk

❖ Corinth and _____

❖ _____ of boasting

❖ The Danger of _____

❖ Paul's Boast: Boasting...

•not _____

• ...in _____

• ...in _____

• ...our _____

Starter question

- ❖ What examples of boasting have you noticed in the last few weeks?

Responding to the talk

1. If you were asked to sum up this week's talk in one sentence, what would you say?
2. Read 2 Corinthians 11:16-22
 - a. What does Paul say about 'self-confident boasting'?
 - b. What do we learn about the 'false apostles' and their boasting from these verses? See also: 11:4-6, 13; 12:1.
 - c. Why is Paul's weakness good in comparison? (cf. 10:1)
3. Read 2 Corinthians 11:23-33
 - a. What is surprising about Paul's boasting in these verses?
 - b. How is what he says here different to grumbling?
 - c. Which of the hardships he mentions sounds the most horrible to you? What do you think was hardest for Paul?
 - d. How would you normally view someone who had been imprisoned and punished as much as Paul?
 - e. How does what he says show that he was more of a 'servant of Christ' (vs. 23) than the so-called 'super-apostles'?

You may like to do the 'Going Deeper' questions over the page.

Applying it to our lives

9. A friend involved in some kind of Christian ministry, who has worked hard at it, is comparing what they have achieved with other more successful ministries. As a result they are feeling a bit of a failure. How would you counsel them?
10. Someone is about to become a Christian leader. What advice would you give them on the basis of what we have learnt in this passage?