

# Growth Teams

**Week Beginning  
Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2014**

## **Going deeper**

(Spoiler alert: We will be looking at this passage on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December).

Isaiah was a prophet in Jerusalem from about 745 to 680BC. He lived at a time when the Assyrian empire was expanding and indeed, captured and exiled the Northern Kingdom of Israel and very nearly defeated the Southern kingdom whose capital was Jerusalem. It was a very insecure time to live and Isaiah would have seen a lot of suffering. In this section, however, he looks forward to a time when God will come and bring healing to Israel.

## **Please read Isaiah 35:1-10**

5. What future hope does Isaiah say should strengthen God's people? (vs. 1-4)
6. How does Jesus fulfil verses 5-7 in Matthew chapters 8 and 9? What does this show us about Jesus's coming?
7. What things does the description of the 'Way of Holiness' teach us about being a Christian? (vs. 8-10)
8. How can the joy expressed in this passage infect us as we cope with struggles in life today?
9. Do you have any questions or comments for Paul as he prepares to preach on this passage on 14<sup>th</sup> December?

***Now turn over and do 'Applying it to our lives'.***

## **Growth Teams**

Growth Teams are a wonderful opportunity to go deeper with other Christians. They are a great place to build real friendships and support networks, to pray for one another and to look more carefully at the topics we consider on a Sunday.

This week we finish our studies in Matthew chapters 8 and 9, where Matthew shows us 10 amazing miracles of Jesus.

There will be another Growth Team study for the week beginning 7<sup>th</sup> December, which will be the last for the year. You may want to plan a Growth Team Christmas social for some time after that.



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

## Amazed by Jesus

Matthew 9:18-34 (page 974)

*Space to take notes on the talk*

- **Someone's** \_\_\_\_\_
  
- **Someone's** \_\_\_\_\_
  
- **How do we respond?**
  - i. \_\_\_\_\_
  
  - ii. \_\_\_\_\_
  
  - iii. \_\_\_\_\_

## Starter question

- What are you looking forward to this Christmas?

## Responding to the talk

1. What new things did you learn about Jesus from this week's talk?
  
2. Look back over Matthew 8 and 9:
  - a. List the 10 miracles of Jesus recorded in these chapters.
  - b. Which do you think was the most amazing?
  - c. Read Matthew 11:2-6. What does Jesus say his miracles should teach us?
  
3. Read Matthew 9:18-31
  - a. In what different ways do the three groups of people who approach Jesus demonstrate their faith?
  - b. How does Jesus emphasise the importance of faith?
  
4. Read Matthew 9:32-34
  - a. Why are the crowds amazed by Jesus? Is being amazed the same as having faith? How is it different?
  - b. Why are the Pharisees so keen to slander Jesus?
  - c. Read Matthew 12:22-28. Why are the Pharisees wrong?

*If there is time, you may like to do the 'Going deeper' questions over the page. Otherwise please just jump to questions 10 and 11.*

## Applying it to our lives

10. How can we help people today move from being interested in Jesus to putting their faith in him?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
11. How should we respond to people who describe the Christian religion as 'evil'?