

Growth Teams

**Week Beginning
Sunday 7th December 2014**

Going deeper

The book of Jonah tells of an Israelite prophet sent by God to Nineveh (in modern day Iraq) to tell them that God has noticed their wickedness. Jonah responds by running away from God and catching a ship in the opposite direction, to Tarshish (modern day Spain). Why does he run? We're not told until chapter 4 – he didn't want the Nineveh to hear the message, repent and so be saved!

In this study, however, we are going to focus on the sailors on the ship.

Please read Jonah 1

5. Why were the sailors afraid and how did they respond to their fear (vs. 5)? Why is prayer a natural response to fear? What was wrong with their prayers?
6. Why were the sailors terrified in verse 10? How do you think they viewed Jonah's God at this point in the story?
7. Compare verses 5 and 13. What about their prayers has changed? How do they view God now?
8. How is the men's fear in verse 16 different to their fear in verses 5 and 10? How do they respond to God now?
9. What kind of 'fear of God' is being talked about in Isaiah 11? How would you explain it to a friend?

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.

We have been looking at how amazing Jesus is over the last few weeks as we have been studying Matthew 8 and 9. This is a great preparation for celebrating his birth at Christmas. This week we look at what Isaiah had to say about Jesus as he looked forward to the coming king.

This is the last Growth Team study of 2014. You may want to plan a Christmas social for your Growth Team.



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

Christmas Starts – The Coming King

Isaiah 11:1-9 (page 696)

Space to take notes on the talk

What kind of Leader?

- A _____ King: _____

- A _____ King:
 - Descent: _____

 - Character: _____

 - Behaviour: _____

 - Achievement: _____

- Who is the King?

Starter question

- What do you think makes a good leader?

Responding to the talk

1. A friend asks you what you learnt at church on Sunday. What would you say?

2. Look at Isaiah 11:2-3a
 - a. Which of the leader's characteristics do you think most people would agree are important in leaders?
 - b. Which is stressed most in this passage? Why is it so important?

3. Look at Isaiah 11:3b-5
 - a. What is attractive about the behaviour of this king?
 - b. Why are righteousness and faithfulness so important?

4. Look at Isaiah 11:6-9
 - a. What is so attractive about this vision for the future?
 - b. What is significant about the focus on snakes? (cf. Gen. 3:15)
 - c. How does this vision of the future come about (vs. 9b)? What should that spur us on to?

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 develop a greater, 'fear of the Lord'?

11. What can we do to help people come to a 'knowledge of God'?