

Growth Teams

**Week Beginning
Sunday 7th May 2017**

Going deeper

Chapters 40-55 of Isaiah are addressed to Israel in Exile in Babylon in the 6th Century BC. The 'servant' of chapter 42, could be seen as the faithful Israelites in exile (cf. 41:8). Yet the New Testament sees Jesus as more fully fulfilling the role of the servant (cf. Matthew 12:15-21). There is also a sense that we as Jesus's followers carry on the role of the servant of chapter 42. Especially as a light for the Gentiles (cf. Matthew 5:14-16).

Read Isaiah 42:1-7

5. 'Bruised reed' (vs. 3) might aptly describe an exiled people, but how does Jesus more fully fulfil this description? How does it apply to Christians?

6. How does verse 5 encourage the exiled Israelites? In what ways does it parallel Jesus's words to the disciples in Matthew 28?

7. Isaiah 40-55 is a word of comfort to exiled Israel (cf. 40:1). Why then does the prophet talk about the 'nations', 'islands' and 'gentiles'? (cf. Isaiah 49:6)

8. What will the 'servant' do for the nations? How does Jesus fulfil this? (cf. Matthew 28:16-20)

9. What part do we play today in fulfilling these words?

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

Growth Team News

There are 3 daytime Growth Teams running at present. Please check out the contacts below if you want to give one a try.

There are no evening Growth Teams running at present, but from this Tuesday, 9th May there will be a series of 3 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.**

Disciples of All Nations

Matthew 28:16-20 (page 1001)

Space to take notes on the talk

What does the resurrection mean?

- Jesus _____

- _____ Jesus

- _____ Jesus

- Jesus _____

Starter question

- ❖ What is the most different culture you have visited?

Responding to the talk

1. Which of the things we learnt about Jesus this week most encourages or excites you?

2. Read Matthew 28:16-17
 - a. What is the significance of mountains in Matthew? (4:8; 5:1; 17:1; 24:3; 28:16)
 - b. Why did the disciples worship Jesus?
 - c. How does it encourage us to see that some doubted? (cf. 14:31)

3. Read Matthew 28:18
 - a. How else has Jesus shown authority in Matthew? (cf. 7:29; 8:9; 9:6,8; 10:1)
 - b. Why does the resurrection confirm Jesus's authority? (cf. 26:63-66)
 - c. Why is Jesus's authority important in justifying and encouraging Christian mission?(cf. 'Therefore' in vs. 19)

4. Read Matthew 28:19-20
 - a. What is the difference between making disciples and making converts or church goers?
 - b. Why is the 'all nations' part of the command important?
 - c. What promise is there to encourage us?

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

Applying it to our lives – Please pass any key ideas on to Paul

10. In what ways can we as a church be better at supporting mission to other nations?

11. What about the 'New Growth Team Plan' do you think is helpful or encouraging? Are there any concerns about it? Are there any tweaks to improve it?