



Sermon Growth Guide

November 27, 2022

The Great Rescue - The Peril

Isaiah 1:2-6, 11-20

Key Verse: Isaiah 1:18 “Come now, let us settle the matter,” says the Lord. “Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool.”

Big Idea: God wants your heart, not your lip service.

Foundations

Advent begins today, which also launches us into our new sermon series, ***The Great Rescue***.

This Advent, our sermon series spins around ***The Great Rescue*** as told throughout Isaiah. Some presume Christmas is mere ornaments and reindeer. God’s people proclaim a different message: Christmas celebrates the arrival of Jesus the Messiah, God inaugurating His rescue plan of redemption by sending Jesus to conquer sin. Heaven’s invasion has come; the Kingdom of God is at hand.

Did this Great Rescue come up out of thin air, with no warning? Unlike any event in human history, the arrival of the Messiah was foretold for thousands of years. Generation after generation, the clear and consistent word was echoed: one is coming who will rescue.

We begin in Isaiah chapter one, a loud and clear reminder that the state in which we find ourselves is perilous.

Open your time together in prayer. Thank God that “though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow.”

Check in with one another. What is the holiday season like for each of you? How can you care, serve and encourage one another through this holiday season?

Understanding God’s Word

Together, read Isaiah 1:2-6, 11-20.

Identify phrases within today’s passage that seem especially vivid to you.

In verses 13-15, what is God feeling? Why is God feeling this way?

What is promised in verse 18?

Applying God’s Word

Isaiah 1 reminds us that God hates fake (to employ this lively verb from verse 14!). God desires sincerity: His holiness requires truth in full measure. God is holy and wants your heart, not your lip service.

Is Isaiah 1 unapplicable to your life? Or can you identify aspects of your faith that are not fully given over to the Lord? How might your Life Group help you walk in even greater faithfulness to God?

Witnessing God’s Word

Host a conversation about how God’s witness is helped or hurt by how God’s people live their lives.

How might your Life Group even better reflect the faithfulness and sincerity of God to those you see this week.