

Small Group – January 3, 2021

Read Isaiah 60:1-6

1. In verse 1, the prophet Isaiah saw the rising of God's light over the world. How do we and other people today "see" the light of God in Jesus Christ?

We can see God's light in and through the goodness of nature and creation and through human acts of love. But the beauty of nature and the good deeds of people will not fully display or reveal God's light in Jesus Christ. The light of Jesus is fully revealed in and through the words of holy Scripture as found in the Bible. The words of the Bible reveal and illuminate the Person of Jesus and the goodness of creation and human acts of love give warmth and life to everything around us. The world needs both the light of Scripture and the warmth of love and beauty.

2. In verse 3, Isaiah saw God's people reflecting and radiating God's light and attracting the world to their light. What are some ways we can reflect and radiate God's light in Jesus Christ?

By sharing the Gospel in our words -- preaching and evangelising the good news; by acts of kindness and sacrifice; by our presence of love, listening, encouragement, reconciliation, understanding, and longsuffering; etc.

3. In verse 4, God's light will draw together the dispersed exiles of Israel and Judah for their final reunion. How has Christ's light brought reconciliation among God's people in the Church?

While the Church is yet divided and remains in disagreement, the Church around the world has been brought together like no other time in history since the early Church. Movements and efforts for ecumenical relationships and institutional conversations continue to bring denominations together and parts of the Church for mutual work, teaching, world relief, mission, and clarity of doctrine and creedal affirmations. Even as the Church is imperfect and is corrupt in some parts, the Church around the world is continuing to teach, exhibit, promote, and embody forgiveness and reconciliation as an example and the way forward for the world to follow.

4. In verses 5-6, Isaiah saw all the world drawn together by God's light. Throughout the centuries, how has the light of Jesus drawn all the nations and peoples of the world together?

Christianity has transformed the world throughout two millennia for the better. There is much to say about the history, movements, and reformations that occurred around the world because of the Church. Christianity continues to be the most powerful force that draws and unites every human person on our planet.