**Small Group Study Notes:**

19th Nov - Hungry Worship Evening

22nd Nov - Church Quiz

2nd Dec – ADVENT Quiet Night

*It was once said of small groups ‘all bible study and no space for prayer/fun/fellowship then they dry up BUT focus just on how people feel/general discussions and no bible study then they blow up.’*

So here are some studies you could use over the next few weeks once you’ve finished off the David series. And I do hope you will also all enjoy a good Christmas social and consider coming along to the church events this Nov and Dec!

Perhaps as a group you could volunteer to take on serving refreshments at one of the Christmas services or would like to get involved in making them happen. Or perhaps you could go on a prayer walk and drop some Christmas flyers! If you can help, please let the office know!

**Isaiah 51**

Welcome

What’s the last thing God spoke to you about? *It could be something that has hit you afresh from reading the bible, something from a seron or worship song, or something the Holy Spirit has whispered to you in your prayer time, your dreams or through the circumstances in your life.*

Worship

https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=IkHgxKemCRk

Word

Read Isaiah 51.1-16

* How many times in this passage do we hear ‘listen to me’ or ‘hear me’? Why do we sometimes find that hard to do? How much time have you given to listening to God recently?
* God counsels His people to look at His work in His people in days past. This is one of the great glories of God’s word to us; it tells us how God has dealt with His people and gives us faith and guidance for His work in our lives — if we will listen to Him. How does this encourage you? What story or character in the bible helps bolster your faith?
* How wired are we to get our encouragement from large numbers in a crowd or are large amount of resource, this might be totally natural for us, so how do we not get discouraged if numbers or resources are scarce?
* Listening to the talk on Sunday and reading the passage again tonight what has caught your attention?
* Lots of good reasons to remember the Lord – and choose Him!  –[Isaiah 51:9-16](https://classic.net.bible.org/passage.php?passage=isa%2051:9-16)

v13: What happens when you “forget the Lord”?
\* v9 – you forget God is greater than “Proud One” –[1Jn 4:4](https://classic.net.bible.org/verse.php?book=1jn&chapter=4&verse=4)
\* v10 – you forget God makes a Way –[Jn 14:6](https://classic.net.bible.org/verse.php?book=jn&chapter=14&verse=6)
\* v11 – you forget promises of salvation/deliverance –[Rev 21:4](https://classic.net.bible.org/verse.php?book=rev&chapter=21&verse=4)
\* v12 – you have fear of man –[Psa 27:1; 118:6](https://classic.net.bible.org/passage.php?passage=Psa%2027:1;%20118:6" \t "_blank)
\* v13 – you forget who your creator is –[Psa 121:2](https://classic.net.bible.org/verse.php?book=psa&chapter=121&verse=2" \t "_blank)
\* v14 – you forget who your provider is –[Gen 22:14](https://classic.net.bible.org/verse.php?book=gen&chapter=22&verse=14)
\* v15 – you forget how powerful the Lord is –[1Chron  29:11](https://classic.net.bible.org/verse.php?book=1chr&chapter=29&verse=11)
\* v16 – you forget to whom you belong –[Song  6:3](https://classic.net.bible.org/verse.php?book=sos&chapter=6&verse=3)

Looking at the list above is there any one or two that you could do with choosing to remember this week?

Witness

Pray together for opportunities for us to proclaim the good news in West London in this season. Pray that we would all listen to God’s voice.

**Isaiah 61**

Welcome

What do you know about the prophecies about Jesus’ coming? <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/swisscottage/wp-content/uploads/sites/52/2014/11/44-Prophecies-Jesus-Christ-Fulfilled.pdf>

OR: What’s your favourite rags to riches story?

Worship

Pray and have a time of just resting in God and listening to a long worship song: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TM-L-L7OD_A>

Word

Read Isaiah 61

What are the purposes for which God’s Anointed was sent into the world? (61:1-3)

Why did God "plant" His people with great honour? (61:3)

How is the joy of God’s redeemed people contrasted with their present condition? (61:7)

What does God love? (61:8)

What does God hate? (61:8)

What will the whole world understand about God’s people? (61:9)

How did Isaiah illustrate the honour and intimacy with which God will relate to His

people? (61:10)

What did Isaiah portray as sprouting like seeds out of soil? (61:11)

How would you characterize the sorts of people for whom the Messiah came?

How do you see the qualities of the Messiah listed in Isaiah 61 illustrated in the life of Jesus?

Why is blessing His people an effective way for God to display His splendour?

Witness

Jesus’ ministry was a ministry of love by which he both proclaimed good news and also demonstrated good news in healing and freeing actions.

**The Wonders of His Love**

Welcome

How has God’s love changed you?

Worship

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I1JYVUmCGKE>

Word

Read John 3.16-17 and 1 John 7-21

What do these passages teach us about the love of God? Together as a group spend quite a bit of time pulling out all the things that are revealed in these passages.

We never grow past needing to understand, hear and experience the love of God, what helps you engage with God’s love for you?

In what ways is the incarnation a demonstration of God’s love?

Over the Christmas services we’ll be thinking about the 7 wonders of God’s love a play on the 7 wonders of the world:

* The Abundance of His love – for God so loved
* The Object of His love – the whole world
* The Gift of His love – you can’t love without giving & God loved us whilst we were still sinners
* The Reception of His love – saving love – when we transfer trust of ourselves to trust in Jesus and believe
* The Intervention of His love – that we might not perish
* The Duration of His love – it’s eternal
* The Heart of His love – forgiving, saving, freeing, joyful

Do any of these aspects of God’s love cause you to stop and wonder afresh at how amazing God is?

Why do some people respond to God’s love differently (see John 3.20)?

How can we pray for West London this Christmas time to receive God’s love?

Witness

Pray for opportunities to invite contacts, friends, neighbours and family to services over Christmas.