

# Life Group Notes

## Series: God is closer than you think

### 'Arise, shine for your light has come'

#### Isaiah 60:1-22

#### To begin

- Around the time of the Reformation, Martin Luther wrote these words to Erasmus: 'Your thoughts of God are too human.' In what ways are our thoughts of God too human? Is our God too small?

#### Questions for discussion

1. What do you think of Isaiah's vision of God and what he will do?
2. In verse 2, it says, 'See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples...' Where do you see darkness over the earth today? Are things better or worse than in days gone by?
3. Take a look at the following readings which illustrate the glory of the Lord:
  - Isaiah 6:1-5
  - Exodus 40:34-35
  - 1 Kings 8:11What effect does God's glory have? What experiences of God's glory have you had? [NB The Hebrew word 'kabod', which is translated 'glory', carries a sense of weight, splendour, abundance]
4. In Isaiah 59:20, we read of a coming Redeemer that Christians would understand to be Jesus. How does Jesus show us God's glory? See John 1:14; Hebrews 1:3; Colossians 2:27
5. When God's glory rises upon the earth, what is the impact according to Isaiah 60?
6. How can we display God's glory on the earth? See Matthew 5:14.
7. What is God laying on your heart to do for him? How can you 'punch some holes in the darkness'?
8. Isaiah looks beyond the Zion of his own day, to a time when the glory of the Lord will always be obvious (v19-22) and his people will possess the land for ever. Read Revelation 22:1-5. How does this fulfilment of Isaiah's vision encourage you?

#### Pray

- Pray for God's glory to be made known in and through our church
- Praise God for his glory, perhaps using lines from psalms or songs that express that.

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