

Week 1

Isaiah 1:1, 10-20 "Confrontation of God's People"

Begin with prayer:

Lord God,

Thank you for this opportunity to spend time in your community and your Word.

Help us to grow closer together, and to build one another up as we study and discuss.

We pray for hearts that seek after you and righteous living. Help us to love and serve you, by loving and serving those around us.

In Jesus name we pray,

Amen

Read the text for today. (Suggestion: Go around and read it out loud, each person taking a verse.)

Ask: What stood out to you about this text? What, if anything, doesn't make sense? What caught your attention and sparked curiosity?

To help understand Isaiah 1:10-20, let's back up to verse 9. Due to the sadness and devastation in Israel, in verse 9 the people are saying to themselves, "It's a good thing God left a few folks still living, or else we would be no better off than Sodom and Gomorrah way back when!" In verse 10, the Lord picks up on their reference to those evil cities, and turns the tables on the Israelites by addressing them **as** Sodom and Gomorrah! It didn't go over well. What Isaiah is targeting in his speech is their insincere and false religious practices. Few people get as upset as religious "posers" when they are told that their religion is bogus.

"You think you make me smile when you come to the Temple and offer sacrifices?" God says through Isaiah, "Just the opposite! I choke on the smoke, my eyes are red from it. You think I don't see your

