

Fulfilling the Ministry of Christ

Discussion Questions for Isaiah 61:1-11

Open It

What is your favorite "rags to riches" story?

What are some of the reasons we call people blessed or fortunate?

Explore It

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

What adornments did Isaiah say God's people would receive in exchange for "ashes," "mourning," and "a spirit of despair"? (61:3)

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

What promise did God make concerning the cities that had been destroyed by invaders? (61:4)

How would the work force of Israel reflect its power and status? (61:5)

Besides riches, what honor did Isaiah say God would bestow on all His people? (61:6)

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 honor 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)

Get It

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 splendor?

What would it signal about your status with the giver if you were to inherit a "double portion" in his or her will?

Why is it important to God that all nations acknowledge Him?

Apply It

In light of God's attitudes and purposes, how do you plan to react to those around you this week who are grieving or despairing?

What creative idea could you suggest to leaders in your Sunday School or church for giving special thanks to God for His generous blessings?